

Hafa Adai!

NMI's COVID-19-related death now at 38. **PAGE 2**
Ranking FAA official to visit the CNMI. **PAGE 3**

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Muña: Finance has yet to transfer \$34.2M to CHCC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

To date, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is still owed \$34.2 million that the Department of Finance has yet to transfer to the



Atalig



Muña

corporation from several local appropriations, as well as allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act funding, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna Monday.

See **FINANCE** on **Page 4**

'This is just the beginning'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER



Hodson



Mafnas

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted Customs and Biosecurity director Jose Mafnas' request for an emergency temporary restraining order, reinstating him as Customs director pending a judgment on his lawsuit against the Department of Finance, Finance Secretary David

DLG Atalig, and William Castro, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' chief of staff. See **BEGINNING** on **Page 4**



HAZARD ELIMINATION PROJECT

Department of Public Works Secretary James A. Ada, extreme right, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, extreme left, lead some lawmakers, DPW staff, and other dignitaries in the ceremonial shoveling of soil during a groundbreaking ceremony for the hazard elimination project at the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and Chalan Antonio Apa Road near NMC on As Terlaje Hill yesterday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Story on **Page 3**

DESPITE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN OPA finds 88% increase in gov't vehicle costs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Government vehicle expenditures amounted to \$3.7 million in fiscal year 2020, yet ballooned to \$6.9 million in fiscal

year 2021. That has raised some red flags for the Office of the Public Auditor, which said in its audit report that the 88% increase—which is

See **OPA** on **Page 4**

CHCC monitoring US monkeypox outbreak



Stock image taken from the Centers for Disease and Prevention website (<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html>).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The World Health Organization has declared the multi-country monkeypox outbreak a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern," or PHEIC.

As of July 28, 2022, the

See **CHCC** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Docomo Pacific supports the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Guam 2022 event.

PAGE 11



NATION

At least two people have died from a raging California blaze that was among several in the U.S.

PAGE 12



ASIA

President Marcos Jr. says the Philippines has no plan to rejoin the International Criminal Court.

PAGE 13



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Local

NMI's COVID-19-related death now at 38

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have confirmed the CNMI's 38th COVID-19-related death.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center reported that the territory's 381st COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Aug. 1, 2022. The patient was a 96-year-old male, with no record of vaccination, with

underlying health conditions, who tested positive on Aug. 1.

As of Aug. 1, 2022, there are zero individuals hospitalized in the CNMI as a result of COVID-19.

From this report's period of July 24 – 30, 2022, there were zero new hospitalizations in the CNMI due to COVID-19.

From July 24 – 30, 2022, 156 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the

CNMI total to 12,732 cases since March 28, 2020.

The CNMI remains at COVID-19 Community Level Medium.

A total of 2,710 COVID-19

tests were conducted July 24 – 30, 2022:

- 114 on July 24, 2022
- 695 on July 25, 2022
- 388 on July 26, 2022
- 145 on July 27, 2022

- 548 on July 28, 2022
- 600 on July 29, 2022
- 220 on July 30, 2022
- Of the total cases identified, as of July 30, 2022:
- 12,601 recoveries

- 93 active cases
- 38 COVID-19-related deaths

- Identified via
- 11,697 community testing
- 1,035 travel testing
- The next report will be around Aug. 8, 2022. (Saipan Tribune/PR)

FEMA training on project site inspections, project delivery management

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Three Federal Emergency Management Agency instructors started Monday a five-day in-person training for CNMI Public Assistance Office staff and CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Program inspectors on how to complete site inspections that are required for FEMA projects related to super typhoons Soudelor and Yutu, and in preparation for future disaster response and recovery.

The three FEMA instructors—Ardean Miller, Michel Desrosiers, and Nanette Alo—will also hold a 10-day in-person training for CNMI PAO staff about project delivery management starting Aug. 8 at Aqua Resort Club in Achugao, to orient them on how to comply with FEMA requirements for the same project objectives.

Infrastructure and Recovery Program project liaison Deveney Dela Cruz said Monday that 23 individuals from CNMI PAO and three IRP inspector staff are participating in the site inspections training at Aqua Resort Club.

The three IRP inspectors

will only participate in the site inspector training portion of the training, Dela Cruz added.

She said the training was requested by the PAO last May and that IRP and FEMA Interagency Recovery Coordina-

tion were able to coordinate it.

She said IRP encourages all their stakeholders to let them know about their training needs that are related to federal project completion.

She noted that all permitting

assistance that IRP provides is for review and approval of CNMI permitting agencies.

Dela Cruz said technical assistance is either requested by their stakeholders or designated American Rescue Plan Act-funded projects identified by the Office of the Governor.

She said the projects include the Department of Public Lands As Gonno Homestead Project and various Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Waterline and Wastewater Projects.

She pointed out that IRP is not responsible for approval of funding or approval of permits for any project.

Dela Cruz added that IRP is thankful to the FEMA Joint Recovery Office and especially to FEMA IRC led by Brenda Tillman and her team and FEMA Public Assistance for all their assistance over the past six trainings.

She said they have also been fortunate to collaborate with the CNMI PAO under Governor's Authorized Representative Patrick Guerrero and his team.

"We look forward to working with them more in the future and helping them to meet their permitting objectives," she said.



Federal Emergency Management Agency instructor Ardean Miller starts Monday a five-day in-person site inspector training for CNMI Public Assistance Office staff and inspector staff from the CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Program at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Work seeks to rid accident-prone intersection of hazards

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A project to eliminate hazards at the accident-prone intersection of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa Road near the Northern Marianas College on As Terlaje Hill started yesterday, with the Department of Public Works breaking ground at the site.

The hazard elimination project worth \$567,558 is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration-HI Division, according to DPW Secretary James A. Ada. Under the project, one of the span wire traffic signal pole will be

replaced with mast arm traffic signal pole and a guardrail will be installed. The intersection will also have an anti-skid surface.

Ada said the project's contractor, Hong Ye Rental and Construction Ltd., has 180 calendar days, or until Sept. 16, 2022, to finish the project.

Ada thanked Hong Ye for bidding on the project, and to all DPW engineers and staff.

"So many accidents have happened over here," he said.

Ada also disclosed many road projects that will be rolling out, including one at the Industrial Drive by the Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico worth \$1.3 million.

He thanked Delegate Gre-



A short ceremony precedes the groundbreaking for the hazard elimination project at the intersection of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa Road near the Northern Marianas College on As Terlaje Hill.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Ranking FAA official to visit the CNMI

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Associate Administrator of Airports for the Federal Aviation Administration, Shanetta Griffin, is set to pay the CNMI a visit from Aug. 8 through 10 to discuss the much-needed improvements to the CNMI's airports.

According to Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Griffin, who was appointed by President Joe Biden to oversee the \$20 billion allocated for infrastructure projects under the U.S. Department of Transportation (specific to airports), is set to arrive on Saipan on Aug. 8 and will be meeting with CPA and the CNMI administration through Aug. 10.

"We are having a very big visit from Shanetta Griffin. This is an opportunity to have a discussion with her about our priorities here at CPA specific to the airport," she said.

One of the ongoing discussions that will be brought before Griffin, King-Hinds said, is what CPA and the administration should do about the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport's existing terminal.

"It's 40 years old, and over the course of these 40 years, there's been a lot of changes, to include federal requirements as it relates to security, specifically after 9/11. Our infrastructure just wasn't built to accommodate those additional improvements and so it's kind of made the flow of the air-

port traffic within the terminal inefficient. So the discussion that's being had right now is whether or not we should explore fixing the existing terminal or building a new terminal,

and obviously, that comes with a hefty price tag. So the idea basically is to pursue a two-prong approach, which is, one, look at what's available under the Biden infrastructure law, and then, two, also look at the possibility of entering into a public-private partnership," she explained.

Aside from CPA and the CNMI administration, community stakeholders will also be present in meetings with Griffin so they could participate in the ongoing discussion on how to improve the Saipan airport terminal, King-Hinds said.

"We've identified certain key stakeholders within the community to participate

in the deliberation process and to have a very open and transparent discussion as to what the Commonwealth should do, because obviously, this is a long-term investment that needs to be made now. I want this conversation to be driven by the stakeholders, driven by the community," she said.

According to CPA executive director Chris Tenorio, the CNMI has been coordinating with the FAA Honolulu office about Griffin's arrival.

"So we're prepping her arrival on Aug. 8. She's set to arrive in the morning, and then we have meetings with our board that morning, then in the afternoon we have a meeting with the governor and other stakeholders," he said.



Griffin



King-Hinds



Tenorio

gorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) for those monies appropriated for these many projects.

DPW highway administrator Lorraine S. Villagomez said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Sablan, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who were not present at the ceremony, played roles in this hazard mitigation project.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan),

who also spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony, said he never gets tired being invited to groundbreaking projects, especially when it comes to roads. He said it is for the safety of motorists and also for the students, staff, and faculty of NMC as the project is near the campus.

"I'm very excited for this project and all the projects that are coming up," he said.

The speaker said he hopes

to see more projects as well in Precinct 3, which he represents.

"I know that's coming forward," said Villagomez as he thanked the administration, DPW, federal partners, and all those involved in this project.

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said the project is just one of many examples of DPW's partnership with NMC.

Deleon Guerrero said it's

the partnership that they cherish and that they look forward to many more partnerships and projects in the future.

The NMC president said whenever they're on campus for an event like this groundbreaking, it's hard not to remember what it was like not too long ago when then-interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico and the NMC board of regents led by chairman Charles Cepeda were at the campus at this very site, devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu.

"It's a new day at NMC, because now we have buildings, projects in the works, and this may be the very first groundbreaking as we move forward with our new facilities," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said Ada and the Office of the Governor deserve a big round of applause for helping to make this project possible.

"This is your campus. This is not just the NMC campus. This is your campus," Deleon Guerrero said.

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Sagana pleads not guilty to license fraud charge

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A man who is facing federal charges in the CNMI but fled to Wisconsin has returned to Saipan for his arraignment where he pleaded not guilty before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Bonifacio “Boni” Sagana, 58, appeared before District Court for the

NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy yesterday for his arraignment.

During the hearing, Sagana, through attorney David Banes, pleaded not guilty to the charges of conspiring with others to unlawfully produce a CNMI driver’s license.

Kennedy scheduled Sagana’s trial on Oct. 4.

Following the hearing, Sagana

briefly told local media that he has a lot of things he wants to say in order to clear his name but for the time being, as advised by his attorney, he chooses not to make any comments.

Sagana noted that he traveled roughly three days from Wisconsin to Saipan for his arraignment. The federal court paid for Sagana’s plane ticket.

According to court documents, the U.S. District Court for the NMI issued an arrest warrant for Sagana following a grand jury indictment back on Jan. 31, on the charge of conspiring with others to unlawfully produce a CNMI driver’s license.

However, Sagana fled the CNMI before he could be arrested and was only taken into custody last May 16 in Wisconsin.

Sagana was allegedly identified by other defendants facing the same

charges as the person who arranged for them to fraudulently obtain a CNMI driver’s license using a counterfeit U.S. immigration visa number.

According to documents from the Eastern District Court of Wisconsin, Sagana, a U.S. permanent resident, appeared at an initial hearing on May 16, before judge James R. Sickel.

The charge against Sagana is punishable by up to a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

OPA

From Page 1

equivalent to \$3.2 million—during a time of economic downturn for the CNMI is questionable in terms of fiscal responsibilities.

OPA’s audit report, which was released yesterday, said that, regardless of the funding source, an increase in the number of vehicles issued to CNMI agencies poses additional li-

abilities and obligations associated with fuel consumption and cost of repairs and maintenance.

The OPA audit covered the period from when the CNMI was just emerging from Super Typhoon Yutu’s devastation in October 2018 when it ran headlong into the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, during which global travel was shut down in the U.S. and other territories. Starting in June 2019, the CNMI government implemented austerity

measures that included eight-hour pay cuts, then eventually 16-hour pay cuts in March 2020, and the furlough of government employees in February 2021.

Yet despite these events, OPA said, based on the CNMI’s unaudited financial records, the CNMI incurred expenditures related to government vehicles amounting to \$6,949,168 and \$3,702,296 in fiscal years 2021 and 2020, respectively.

Between Nov. 11, 2021, and Dec.

28, 2021, OPA conducted an inventory survey of government vehicles and noted multiple discrepancies between various government agencies’ vehicle inventory listings and Department of Finance-Division of Procurement Services’ inventory listings of purchased and leased vehicles.

Based on the results of the survey, OPA initiated an audit of Finance-PS’ accountability of government vehicles for the period of Oct. 1, 2019 to Nov. 12, 2021.

Based on the Finance-PS’ Fixed Asset Master Information listing provided by Finance-PS, 111 vehicles totaling \$4,204,180 were purchased from Oct. 1, 2019 to Nov. 12, 2021.

Finance-PS also provided a listing of nine lease contracts consisting of 13 vehicles with an average contract cost of \$27,645 executed within the same period.

Of the 111 vehicles purchased, OPA was only able to test 51 (46%) totaling \$2,073,157.

OPA said the procurement documents for 60 (54%) samples totaling \$2,131,023 were not provided as Finance-PS could not lo-

cate the documents.

Additionally, OPA said, three of the 60 samples could not be located because the required procurement document information entered into the FAMI listing were insufficient.

OPA said Finance-PS has a duty to ensure that vehicle inventory is accounted for in the financial records of the CNMI.

OPA said procurement laws, regulations, and policies were established to promote the accountability and transparency of the CNMI government’s inventory. However, OPA’s audit found that documents were not provided for review or lacked sufficient information, Finance-PS is not in compliance with NMI Administrative Code that requires agencies to justify their decision to purchase or lease a vehicle, government vehicles were not accurately reflected on Finance-PS and government inventory listings, and procurement regulations lack provisions for rental vehicles used for operations.

A longer version of this story
is available at
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BEGINNING

From Page 1

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona issued yesterday a TRO against Atalig over Mafnas’ reassignment, essentially prohibiting Atalig from implementing the memorandum that reassigns Mafnas to an allegedly nonexistent division under the Department of Commerce.

The TRO will remain in effect until Aug. 16.

In a brief comment from Mafnas’ lawyer, Charity Hodson, she stated that this is only the beginning.

“This is just the beginning. But we are sincerely grateful that the court understood the emergency nature of the relief requested by Mr. Mafnas and the constitutional magnitude of what is at stake right now. It is a good day for the recognition of fundamental rights,” she said.

Aside from prohibiting Atalig from implementing his July 21 memoran-

dum that reassigns Mafnas to a position within the CNMI Department of Commerce, Atalig was also ordered to maintain the status quo as it was before the pending controversy, with Mafnas employed as the director of Customs and Biosecurity under the Department of Finance until such time that the court has held a hearing on and decided on the motion for preliminary injunction. The hearing for that is set for Aug. 15 at 1:30 pm

Manglona noted that any action taken by the defense in violation of the temporary restraining order may be considered and prosecuted as contempt of court.

According to the TRO, the court found that the arguments presented in Mafnas’ complaint demonstrates ongoing irreparable injury that warrants a TRO.

“A temporary restraining order is necessary to preserve the status quo because the facts as alleged in the verified complaint, and based on the arguments and law presented in the motion for temporary restraining or-

der and preliminary injunction, demonstrate ongoing irreparable injury in the form of the loss of plaintiff’s property interest in his continued employment as a civil service employee, without any due process, and the chilling of his constitutional right to freedom of speech and to freely associate, which damage is ongoing and will continue to occur while a hearing on the plaintiff’s motion for preliminary injunction is pending,” Manglona said.

In addition, Manglona said a TRO is necessary due to the potential severity of the damage to Mafnas’ rights.

“These damages are difficult to calculate, and the potential extent of the severity of the damage to rights protected by the U.S. and CNMI constitutions necessitate immediate action without further notice, particularly because here the constitutional violations constitute irreparable harm,” she said.

Mafnas is suing the Department of Finance, Atalig, and Castro over his allegedly “illegal” reassignment.

FINANCE

From Page 1

In a letter to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, a copy of which was given to *Saipan Tribune* by Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) yesterday, Muña showed that several public and Saipan local laws, including those from 2018, appropriated a total of \$55,835,688 to CHCC.

Muna said Finance transferred so far \$20,981,433 and an adjustment in the amount of \$646,163, leaving \$34,208,092 in total balance owed CHCC.

She said that soon after their fiscal year 2022 budget hearing, the lawmakers emphasized with her that CHCC needs to make a written request to Atalig’s office requesting for and following up on funding appropriated to CHCC by CNMI public laws. That prompted Muña’s Monday letter to Atalig, which itemized the appropriations that have a balance to date.

Based on Public Law 20-11, or the fiscal year 2018 Appropriations Act, CHCC was appropriated \$2,251,926,

but CHCC only received \$2,176,227, leaving a balance of \$75,698.

Public Law 20-58, or the Cancer Fund Special Account, appropriated \$300,000 to CHCC, and CHCC received \$250,000 only, leaving a balance of \$50,000.

Public Law 20-32, or the Tobacco Control Fund, appropriated \$2,531,250 to CHCC. The corporation only received \$1,417,457, leaving a balance of \$1,113,792.

Public Law 20-67, or the fiscal year 2019 Appropriation Act, allocated \$10,295,016 to CHCC, which only got \$1,657,877. An adjustment was made in the amount of \$646,163, leaving a balance of \$7,990,976.

Public Law 21-08, as amended by Public Law 21-16, or the fiscal year 2020 Appropriation Act, appropriated \$2,915,546 to CHCC; the hospital corporation only received \$156,684, leaving a total balance of \$2,758,861.

Public Law 21-10 or the Casino License Fee, appropriated \$500,000 to CHCC, but CHCC received nothing.

Public Law 21-35, or the fiscal year 2021 Appropriations Act, appropriated \$86,659 to CHCC, but CHCC

also received nothing.

Under Public Law 22-08, or the fiscal year 2022 Appropriation Act, CHCC’s general appropriation was \$1,169,908, but it received \$97,492, leaving a total balance of \$1,072,416.

CHCC was appropriated \$9,140,607 under the American Rescue Plan Act and it received \$6,855,455, leaving a total balance of \$2,285,151.

Under the Medical Referral Service Office general fund, \$2,163,820 was appropriated, but nothing was transferred.

Under the MRSO ARPA, 13,480,956 was appropriated, CHCC received \$8,370,239, leaving a total balance of \$5,110,717.

Under the magnetic resonance imaging/hyperbaric chamber project, \$10 million was appropriated, but CHCC has yet to receive any amount.

Under Saipan Local Law 22-08, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation appropriated \$1 million for CHCC’s operations, renovations, and the purchase of new equipment for the hospital, and CHCC has yet to receive any amount.

CHCC

From Page 1

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported over 4,000 cases of monkeypox in the United States and the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico.

While there are no cases of monkeypox that have been reported in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is actively monitoring the situation and urges individuals in the community to recognize the signs of the virus.

What is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. The monkeypox virus is a part of the same family of viruses as smallpox, has similar symptoms to smallpox but milder, and is rarely fatal. Monkeypox is not related to chickenpox.

Symptoms

Symptoms of monkeypox include:

- A rash that can look like pimples or blisters that appears on the face, inside the mouth, and on other parts of the body, like the hands, feet, chest, genitals, or anus.

- Other symptoms can include:

- Fever, chills

- Headache, muscle ache, and backache

- Swollen lymph nodes

The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks. Sometimes, people get a rash first, followed by other symptoms. Others only experience a rash.

Transmission

Monkeypox spreads in different ways. The virus can spread from person to person through:

- Direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids;

- Respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex;

- Touching items (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids.

Pregnant people can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta. People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others.

Prevention

Take the following steps to prevent getting monkeypox:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.

- Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox.

- Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox.

- Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.

- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

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IN US MARINE CORPS RELOCATION

Navy upholds its environmental commitments to Guam, CNMI

Editor's Note: This is the beginning of a six-part series where Joint Region Marianas will take a deliberate and focused look at each of the Navy's Environmental Programs in Guam and the CNMI. The intent of this series is to educate and inform our community on all of the various initiatives that are in place to protect and enhance our islands' ecosystem.

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas continues to uphold its legal commitments to protect threatened and endangered species, and to further advance a healthy ecosystem for the people of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We take our environmental responsibility seriously as evidenced in the range of initiatives and programs we have to protect the island's ecosystems," said Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, JRM commander. "We have been working closely with resource partners including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure full compliance with agreements such as the amended 2015 Biological Opinion and the Endangered Species Act in



Col. Samuel Hunter and Command Sgt. Maj. Ira Ford, 658th Regional Support Group commander and command sergeant major, pose for a photo with Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, commander of Joint Region Marianas.

CPT. PHILIP REGINA

support of the Marine Corps relocation to Guam."

Not only is a healthy and vibrant ecosystem important to the islands and the region, it also supports the mission of the Navy and Marine Corps in Guam and the CNMI. Therefore, the Navy remains steadfast in its commitment to investing millions of dollars in time, personnel and resources to ensure that not only is it meeting its legal obligations,

but perhaps more importantly, that it is advancing its environmental stewardship on the island as the Navy protects, conserves and mitigates any impacts to the natural environment for future generations.

"The Navy is a leader in its role as a natural resources steward in Guam and the CNMI," said John F. Salas, JRM environmental director. "We dedicate substantial effort and resources to protect

native plants and wildlife to ensure compliance with the ESA while at the same time serving the public interest by meeting vital national security obligations."

Examples of the Navy's environmental stewardship in action in Guam include the Guam Micronesian Kingfisher Memorandum of Agreement, Forest Enhancement, Northwest Field Ungulate Fencing and Eradication, *Serianthes nelsonii* (*hayun lăgu*)

Protection and Propagation, Threatened and Endangered Species Salvage and Propagation and Brown Tree Snake Suppression.

Each one of these programs will be highlighted over the next few weeks as we dedicate the time to explain each of the ways in which the Navy is taking care of the island environment.

Today we take a closer look at the Guam Micronesian Kingfisher (*sihek*). Unfortunately, Brown Tree Snakes eradicated the Guam Micronesian Kingfisher population in Guam by the late 1980s, although a small population of the birds still exist in captivity. GMK breeding efforts are underway and BTS suppression is ongoing (to be highlighted in a later article in this series). These programs are necessary to be able to reintroduce the GMK back to the wild in Guam.

GMK Habitat is also a key part of the reintroduction of the species. The GMK Memorandum of Agreement is a collaboration between the Navy along with the USFWS to designate 5,234 acres of DoD land in northern Guam for specific, focused and du-

table habitat protection. Under this program, the Navy has made up to \$2 million available annually to support the agreement's objectives. The Navy continues to work with USFWS to identify, develop, and implement management activities on those lands and identify priority projects for award in fiscal year 2023.

In addition to the GMK MOA, the Navy has been working with inter-agency partners to establish a proactive, voluntary conservation partnership under the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program. JRM has invested more than \$4 million in DoD REPI funding for off-installation, collaborative conservation projects in partnership with the government of Guam, USFWS, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Guam Preservation Trust, and other partners since 2020. JRM has collaborated with partners in the REPI program to implement conservation actions outside JRM installations, to ensure a whole-island approach to Guam's conservation challenges. We intend to continue to seek resources to invest in and to grow this important partnership. (PR)

Saipan Tribune



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No House action to help homestead recipients—Cruz

Since transmittal to the House of Representatives in September 2021, House members have not acted on legislation aimed at assisting village homestead recipients who have lost their assigned homestead lots based on acquisition of land through marriage, a recipient of a deed of land by a parent or an estate, or purchase of affordable real property after the issuance of a homestead permit despite the homesteaders compliance with NMIAC § 145-20.4-120.

Senate Bill 22-22, introduced by Sen. Francisco Q.

OIA awards \$1.5M in grants to Marshall Islands for FY2022

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced \$1,498,866 in fiscal year 2022 Technical Assistance Program and Maintenance Assistance Program grant funding that will benefit the Republic of the Marshall Islands through local governments, the local utility, and a non-governmental organization.

"Funds will support one of the RMI's national strategic goals, which is to provide access to safe drinking water and safe sanitation systems, in this case Wotje and Maloelap, two atolls that are far from the RMI capitol," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "Funds will also support cultural and vocational training for youth, rebuild the Red Cross building in Majuro, and support training for grant writing and grant reporting for funds from the federal government and other sources."

The Technical Assistance Program grants totaling \$750,000 for fiscal year 2022 will be provided as follows:

- \$239,500 – Wotje Atoll Local Government to acquire solar water desalination systems for the drought-prone atoll that has no natural sources of fresh water beyond rain.

- \$200,500 – Maloelap Atoll Local Government to acquire prefabricated sanitary toilets for 137 households and provide access to safe and im-

Cruz, and as amended by the Senate, seeks to amend certain provisions pertaining to village and agricultural homesteads on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. More importantly, Senate Bill 22-22, SS1, in its current form, intends to prohibit the Department of Public Lands from revoking a village or agricultural homestead permit from an individual who met and complied with all necessary requirements, including not having any interest in land at the time the permit was approved.

Based on its legislative history, similar provisions proposed under S.B. 22-22, SS1

proved sanitation for the atoll community.

- \$200,000 – Department of Finance to provide training for government and non-government officials in grant writing and grant management training for all federal government and other funding sources.

- \$110,000 – Waan Aelon in Majel (Canoes of the Marshall Islands) non-profit organization that promotes canoe building and sailing, promoting traditional skills retention and cultural practices among Marshallese youth.

The Maintenance Assistance Program grants totaling \$748,866 for fiscal year 2022 will be provided as follows:

- \$390,122 – Marshall Islands Red Cross Society to remodel the existing Red Cross building and provide space for emergency training. The remodeled building will continue to serve as an evacuation center in case of emergencies or King Tides.

- \$358,744 – Majuro Atoll Waste Company for the acquisition of a garbage truck

More information about the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs can be found at www.doi.gov/oia. For specific information about grants provided through the Office of Insular Affairs, visit www.grants.gov and search Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #15.875. (PR)

were first introduced during the 21st Legislature as Senate Bill 21-36. The bill was passed by the Senate in December 2020 and transmitted to the House of Representatives for action. Unfortunately, no further action was



Cruz

taken by the House, which prompted the bill's reintroduction of the proposed provisions during the 22nd Legislature. In its current form, S.B. 22-22, SS1, was officially transmitted to the House of Representatives on Sept. 15, 2021,

and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Oct. 1, 2021. To date, no further action has been taken by the assigned House committee.

With the end of the year fast approaching and the election around the corner, Cruz worries that the House will once again take no further action on this critical legislation that greatly affects

eligible homestead recipients throughout the CNMI.

"It has been over six months since any action has been made to the homestead bill. For the benefit of our people throughout the Commonwealth, I hope the House will look into this matter soon so that we can finally help our residents to not lose their homestead lots," he said. (PR)

USCGC *Sequoia* to visit Saipan in community outreach

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* was scheduled to visit Saipan starting today, Aug. 3, 2022, as part of the observance of the service's 232nd birthday, which falls on Aug. 4. It was learned yesterday, though, that a mechanical issue scuttled today's port visit but it was assured that the trip to the CNMI will still push through and updates about the outreach will be announced later.

As part of its planned trip, which was initially scheduled for on Aug. 3 -5, the *Sequoia* was supposed to assess vital aids to navigation as part of the Coast Guard's continued, decades-long commitment to the

CNMI's economic prosperity.

Once the CNMI trip pushes through, the commanding officer and cadre will host local partners to build relationships ahead of further U.S. Coast Guard exercises and any emergent maritime crisis. The following day, *Sequoia* will host tours for the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, and Tasi to Table to share the service's mission and discuss Coast Guard career opportunities.

Sequoia is a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender based in Apra Harbor at Naval Base Guam, a deep-water port on the western side of the U.S. ter-

ritory of Guam.

The cutter crew's primary mission is to maintain aids to navigation in Guam and the CNMI. As with all cutters, it functions as a multi-mission platform for marine environmental protection, search and rescue, law enforcement, and homeland security missions.

Sequoia's crew regularly conducts fisheries enforcement missions through the Western Pacific in support of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission treaties and regulations, as well as supporting bilateral agreements between the Pacific Island nations of the Marshall Islands and the Feder-

ated States of Micronesia.

Lt. Cmdr. Linden Dahlkemper took command of the ship in a ceremony in mid-July. Dahlkemper comes to *Sequoia* from the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, where she managed all maritime security cooperation programs in the Office of Defense Cooperation Vietnam.

More on *Sequoia's* recent operations at <https://bit.ly/WLB215CofC22>

The U.S. Coast Guard's forerunner, the Revenue Cutter Service, was founded on Aug. 4, 1790, making the U.S. Coast Guard the nation's premier and oldest continuous seagoing service. (USCG)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/LABORATORY-024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPT. 5TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LABORATORY EXPANSION PROJECT
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring and Construction)
for CHC Hospital / Laboratory Department

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-CHCC/CGC-HTP-023

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 29th, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE - HTP'S TINIAN OFFICE"

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW22-ITB No.: 42200129

SUBMISSION DATE: August 17, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Tangan Tangan Drive Road Improvement Phase 2, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 20, 2022** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **August 05, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 11, 2022** to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director,
Division of Procurement Services

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2022

Opening date: July 13, 2022
Location: SAIPAN
Positions: (1) Internal Auditor
(1) Accounts Clerk
(1) AOA Controller-I

Closing date: August 03, 2022
SALARY
UNGRADED
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.)
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr. to \$15.10/hr.)

Location: PORT OF SAIPAN
Positions: (1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I

SALARY
PL 4/1 to 4/12 (\$8.41/hr. to \$14.38/hr.)

Location: TINIAN
Positions: (2) General Maintenance I

SALARY
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 03, 2022.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-CHCC/WIC-025

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPT. 5TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR WIC'S
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM UPGRADE"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Senators, protect marriage equality ASAP

Imagine waking up one day to discover that a handful of judges had decided that the government could invalidate your marriage. Suddenly, the legal structure that holds your family together could be unraveled, creating uncertainty in some of life's most intimate domains—child custody, estate planning, medical decisions.

No American should have to worry about losing the freedom to marry the person they love. Nor should citizens live in fear that a legal right relied upon to organize their life could be yanked away by conservatives on the Supreme Court. That's why Congress must pass the Respect for Marriage Act, which cleared the House last month and faces a vote in the Senate as soon as this week.

The bill codifies rights to same-sex and interracial marriage that the Supreme Court declared constitutionally protected years ago. In 2015, in *Obergefell vs. Hodges*, the court ruled that gay and lesbian couples have a right to marry, and in 1967, in *Loving vs. Virginia*, it struck down bans on interracial marriage.

These rulings relied on the idea that the constitutional right to liberty is linked with the rights to privacy and autonomy over intimate decisions. But that is the very same legal logic that underpinned the right to abortion for nearly 50 years, which the court jettisoned in June by overturning *Roe vs. Wade*. So Americans are justified in feeling nervous that other privacy-based constitutional rights may also be at risk.

Even though Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote for the majority that the decision to overturn *Roe* "concerns the constitutional right to abortion and no other right," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote an alarming concurrence saying that he wants the court to reconsider the "demonstrably erroneous decisions" involving rights to contraception, same-sex intimacy and same-sex marriage.

It's clear that Americans need insurance policies to protect our freedoms from this extreme court bent on rolling back decades of progress. The Respect for Marriage Act is one of those insurance policies because it enshrines marriage equality in federal law and prohibits states from denying the validity of a marriage that took place in another state. The Right to Contraception Act is another insurance policy that Congress should pass to protect Americans' freedom to use birth control. Congress should have passed the Women's Health Protection Act months ago to ensure access to abortion would continue even if the court overturned *Roe*. It's shameful that it didn't.

While Republican opposition has blocked the bills enshrining federal rights to abortion and contraception from advancing in the Senate, the GOP appears open to codifying

See SENATORS on Next Page



Online schooling is the bad idea that refuses to die

Nearly all of the 20 largest U.S. school districts will offer online schooling options this fall. Over half of them will be offering more full-time virtual school programs than they did before the pandemic. The trend seems likely to continue or accelerate, according to an analysis by Chalkbeat.

That's a problem. School closings over the last two years have inflicted severe educational and emotional damage on American students. Schools should now be focusing on creative ways to fill classrooms, socialize kids and convey the joy of collaborative learning—not on providing opportunities to stay home.

Historically, various forces have pushed for online education—not all of them focused on improving education. These include: the quest for cheaper, more efficient modes of schooling; the push to limit the influence of teachers unions by concentrating virtual teachers in non-union states; and a variety of medical and social factors that lead some students and families to prefer online learning.

Since the pandemic, some virtual programs have reasonably stressed medically fragile students. But others are seizing on online education in a rushed effort to shore up public-school enrollments, which plummeted in some cities. The prevalence of these programs in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Dallas and New York is particularly worrying, as they target poor and minority students who are likely to be particularly ill-served by online school options.

A new study shows that while young children, especially, are bouncing back from the pandemic-era academic doldrums, the gap between high-poverty and low-poverty schools remains greater than it was pre-pandemic.

Research, where it exists, shows consistently worse educational outcomes for online schools than for traditional public schools.

Students in cyber schools do their coursework mostly from home and over the internet, with teachers often located in different states and time zones. There is little comprehensive information about the curricula, student-teacher ratios, how much actual teaching occurs, or what if any academic supports are provided by the schools.

The adverse impact of the pandemic on the emotional well-being and social skills of children—one-third of school leaders reported a surge in disruptive student behavior during the past school year—is a cautionary lesson for online learning.

Graham Browne, the founder of Forte Preparatory Academy, an independent charter school in Queens, New York, said recently that he saw a sharp increase in "aggressive or threatening" behavior, especially among sixth graders who spent much of the previous two years online.

During a recent multi-day field trip to a camp run by the Fresh Air Fund, Browne said he noticed that during team-building exercises, such as figuring out how to carry a large object over a low bridge, students resorted to screaming at each other. Previously, he said, they would have worked out a strategy for maneuvering the

By **ANDREA GABOR**
Bloomberg Opinion

Andrea Gabor, a former editor at *Business Week* and *U.S. News & World Report*, is the Bloomberg chair of business journalism at Baruch College of the City University of New York and the author of *After the Education Wars: How Smart Schools Uspend the Business of Reform*.



object together.

Equally concerning, when the school offered an online option during the 2020-2021 school year, Browne found that close to half of his highest achieving eighth graders—those taking algebra rather than pre-algebra—selected the option because it gave them the flexibility to pursue academics at their own pace.

"Our school is small, so having such a large portion of high-performing students out of the building has an impact on peer tutoring, student morale, and a culture of team building that we emphasize at school," Browne said.

The most immediate threat, however, comes from the private sector and especially from for-profit virtual charter schools, which are of notoriously poor quality; just 30% met state school-performance standards, compared with 53% for district-run virtual schools before the pandemic. These schools, which spend heavily on advertising, boomed during school lockdowns, when traditional schools were struggling to offer online instruction. At the nation's largest for-profit network, enrollment grew 45% to 157,000 students during the past year.

What kids need most are robust in-person learning opportunities and the chance to experiment. Schools also need to maintain reassuring safety protocols as COVID-19 variants continue to spread.

This is the time for schools to adopt engaging learning approaches, such those of a high-poverty school in the Bronx that uses the Bronx River as a science laboratory, and of the Leander, Texas school district that turned over the development of an anti-bullying strategy to high school students, in the process building young leaders.

Some of these projects could be adapted to a hybrid format by giving students the option to do some work remotely, while also emphasizing in-person collaboration.

What makes no educational sense is the rush to embrace online schooling. Experience has demonstrated its severe disadvantages. State oversight isn't strong enough to mitigate them. Before barreling ahead, research should be financed and conducted by independent scholars to pinpoint the potential benefits. Until that happens, schools should do everything they can to keep kids in classrooms.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Amata celebrates US Coast Guard's 232nd birthday

American Samoa Delegate Uifa'atali Amata released the following statement celebrating the 232nd birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard, which is Aug. 4:

"Iwish a very happy birthday to the U.S. Coast Guard, which is celebrating 232 years of active service to the nation.
"As the southernmost extension of the United States,

In celebration of National Watermelon Day today, Aug. 3

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE' BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

The first poem here is from a CD titled Four Seasons of Poetry I recorded in Las Vegas in 2012. There are 15 poems on it for each season. Some copies are still available. This watermelon poem is a favorite of mine in the summer poems. A short sweet summer treat.

When Ripe Watermelon

When ripe watermelon bursts its rind
and juicy red flesh can be seen
all the fruits of summer come to mind
and watermelon is the queen
the crowning glory of any picnic
just what every barbecue needs
thump for ripeness to get the right pick
have fun spitting out all the seeds.

The next poem was inspired by Bob Coldeen's poem "Plop." Plop is a comic tale about avocado activities that was in the *Saipan Tribune* Literary Nook on Wednesday, July 27, 2022.

Avocado Advocacy An Aging Alert

I once had an avocado with a large pit
it was big but its pit made up most of it
it was black outside avocado green within
the same kind and size of others in the bin
I stuck four toothpicks in it to watch it grow
suspended it over a cup so it touched water
I took it to the classroom so kids could know
record its changes and be a nature reporter
grow it did leaves came out and didn't hide
we watched and cut the stalk back a few times
took it from the cup and planted it outside
in a sunny spot watered it near some limes
then ready for guacamole mouth open wide
our neighbor spoke words that hurt our ears
when grown from a pit - there is NO FRUIT
on the plant for the next six to twelve years.

Balutan Beach—Beer and Barbecue

Weekend clouds cleared a hot sun spoke
stayed outside too long got dehydrated
now hung over suffering from sun stroke
should have drunk more water and waited
some guzzled beer after beer all the time
others drank Irish whiskey or red wine
got drunk and drove home before nine
and the next day had to pay a *DUI FINE*
bula kelaguen yan ribs I *balutan* my plate
*kumpa*ire barbecues next week can't wait.



American Samoa has a special relationship with the Coast Guard. Many American Samoans have answered the call to serve with the Coast Guard and proudly embody their motto 'Semper Paratus'—Always Ready. True to their word, the Coast Guard, and the Guardsmen that fill their proud ranks, are always the first to arrive after a natural disaster. They help protect the integrity of our waters so that our sea-based industries can flourish, and they do the same for our neighboring islands.

"I thank every person who has worn that uniform for all they have done for this country and our territory. I hope that our islands will one day soon be home for Coast Guard cutters, which would be a strong signal to our regional partners of U.S. commitment in the Pacific.

"In American Samoa, the Coast Guard will always find a welcome, and people grateful for their service." (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata speaks last week with Adm. Linda L. Fagan, commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, notably the first woman to head up a branch of the Armed Forces. Amata attended her change of command ceremony in recent weeks.

A failure of leadership: The neglect of healthcare in the Marianas

In a letter this week, the chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. notified the secretary of Finance of local appropriations as well as federal allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act that have yet to be transferred to CHCC. The total balance owed to CHCC: a whopping \$34.2 million.

Some local appropriations due to CHCC date back to fiscal year 2018. Huge sums adding up to millions of dollars approved by the Legislature and signed into law were never remitted to CHCC in every single year since 2018—before and after typhoon disasters and through the COVID-19 pandemic, periods through which CHCC's very essential staff worked heroically.

For this current fiscal year 2022, with less than two months to go before the beginning of the new budget cycle, CHCC has received a paltry 3% (\$97,492) of its total \$3.3 million in CNMI general fund appropriations, and nothing at all of general funds appropriated for medical referral specifically. CHCC has also been given exactly zero of the \$1 million that the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation appropriated to support CHCC's operations, renovations, and the purchase of new equipment for the hospital.

As for ARPA funding for FY 2022: CHCC has received less than half of its \$32.6 million in ARPA allocations. Throughout the year, ARPA fund transfers for both hospital operations and medical referral have been consistently delayed. And CHCC has yet to receive a penny of the \$10 million allocated for the Magnetic Resonance Imaging unit that the hospital sorely needs.

According to CNMI medical referral data, one of the top reasons we send people off-island for care is to get MRI scans that are not available here. For nearly a year now, the funding has been and should still be available to finally establish critically-needed MRI services at our one and only public hospital, which should help reduce the CNMI's medical referral costs and the burden placed on patients and their caregivers who would otherwise have to travel off-island.

In my capacity as chair of the Health and Welfare Commit-

tee in the House of Representatives, I have inquired repeatedly for months now about the status of these funds so that CHCC, and the Commonwealth can finally move forward with the MRI project. At the budget hearing last June, the Finance secretary indicated that the \$10 million in ARPA funds would be given, not to CHCC for some reason, but to the Infrastructure Recovery Program to administer instead.

tee in the House of Representatives, I have inquired repeatedly for months now about the status of these funds so that CHCC, and the Commonwealth can finally move forward with the MRI project. At the budget hearing last June, the Finance secretary indicated that the \$10 million in ARPA funds would be given, not to CHCC for some reason, but to the Infrastructure Recovery Program to administer instead.

To date, my office has been unable to identify who at IRP, if anyone, is in charge of this project. To date, it appears there has been no transfer of funds for the MRI unit at all, no apparent progress whatsoever in this project, and absolutely no sense of urgency from this administration.

Think about that, the next time someone we love needs to go off-island for an MRI scan to look for signs of cancer, stroke, heart attack, brain injury, or any other serious condition. CHCC's letter to Finance this week is just the latest revelation of this administration's chronic shortchanging of our public healthcare system and pattern of fiscal neglect and irresponsibility. This administration, and particularly this governor, place so little value on healthcare for our people that they're either dragging their feet in transferring the money that should be there—or they've spent the money on other things and haven't bothered to tell anyone.

There's no excuse. This is an abject failure of leadership. The health and well-being of our people may not be priorities in this administration. They will be in mine.

Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove) and Michelle Steel (R-Seal Beach) voted against protecting those rights.

Five Republican senators have publicly said they will vote for the Respect for Marriage Act. It shouldn't be hard for a few more GOP fence-sitters to come out on the side of civil rights. Some 71% of Americans say same-sex marriage should be recognized by the law. Senators should show they value families and ensure that all couples—regardless of ethnicity, sexual orientation or future Supreme Court decisions—have the right to say, "I do."

Reps. Connie Conway (R-Tulare), Young Kim (R-La Habra), Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale), Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield),

SENATORS

From Page 8

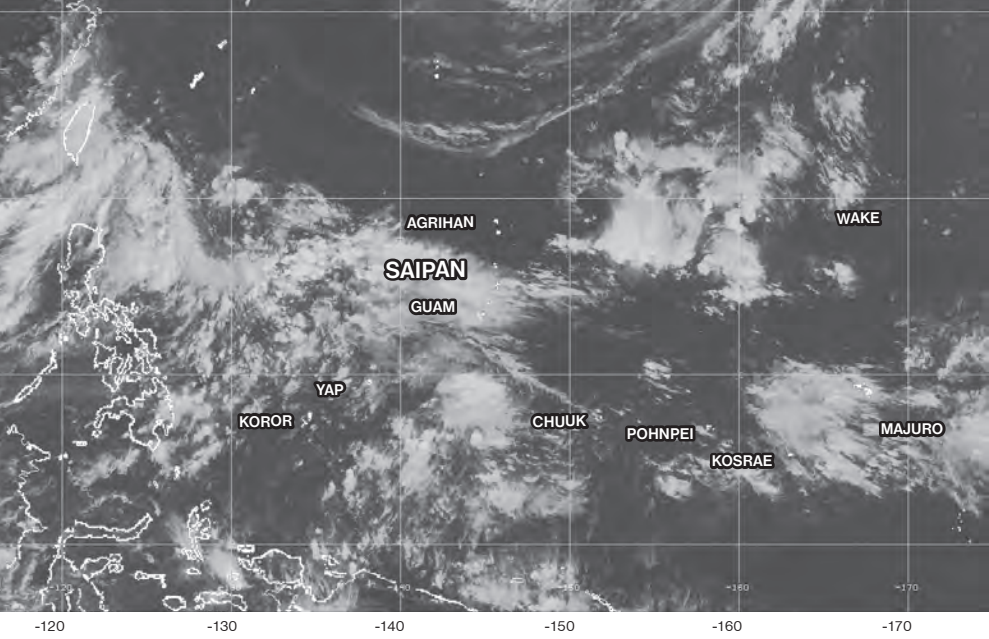
same-sex marriage. It was encouraging to see that the Respect for Marriage Act passed the House with solid bipartisan support. Some 47 Republicans joined all 220 Democrats in voting for it.

California Republicans were split. Reps. Ken Calvert (R-Corona), Mike Garcia (R-Santa Clarita), Darrell Issa (R-Bonsall), Jay Obernolte (R-Big Bear Lake) and David Valadao (R-Hanford) voted in favor of same-sex marriage rights.

Reps. Connie Conway (R-Tulare), Young Kim (R-La Habra), Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale), Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield),

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Isolated showers. Partly sunny,		Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		Partly sunny,	
88°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 4:54 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters. Satellite shows drier weather approaching from the east. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmicchc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 73°	
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:16 AM	10:31 PM	-
Thursday	11:07 AM	11:09 PM	-
Friday	12:01 PM	11:51 PM	-
Saturday	12:58 PM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:37 AM	1:59 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	98° / 80°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 74°	
London	Cloudy	83° / 58°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 66°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Showers	65° / 54°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	91° / 73°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	95° / 82°	
Paris	Sunny	97° / 68°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	96° / 74°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 71°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	69° / 56°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	96° / 80°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 71°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:35 AM	Low Tide	1.02	
10:43 AM	High Tide	1.76	
5:18 PM	Low Tide	0.55	
11:49 PM	High Tide	2.02	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	Daily	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA						SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily	1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN						1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM						2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA						2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Stephen King set to testify for govt in books merger trial

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the Justice Department bids to convince a federal judge that the proposed merger of Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster would damage the careers of some of the most popular authors, it is leaning in part on the testimony of a writer who has thrived like few others: Stephen King.

The author of “Carrie,” “The Shining” and many other favorites, King has willingly—even eagerly—placed himself in opposition to Simon & Schuster, his longtime publisher. He was not chosen by the government just for his fame, but for his public criticism of the \$2.2 billion deal announced in late 2021, joining two of the world’s biggest publishers into what rival CEO Michael Pietsch of Hachette Book Group has called a “gigantically prominent” entity.

“The more the publishers consolidate, the harder it is for indie publishers to survive,” King tweeted last year.

One of the few widely recognizable authors, known for his modest-sized glasses and gaunt features, King is expected to take the witness stand Tuesday, the second day of a federal antitrust trial anticipated last two to three weeks.

He may not have the business knowledge of Pietsch, the DOJ’s first witness, but he has been a published novelist for nearly 50 years and knows well how much the industry has changed: Some of his own former publishers were acquired by larger companies. “Carrie,” for instance, was published by Doubleday, which in 2009 merged with Knopf Publishing Group, and now is part of Penguin Random House. Another former King publisher, Viking Press, was a Penguin imprint that joined Penguin Random House when Penguin and Random House merged in 2013.

King’s affinity for smaller publishers is personal. Even while continuing to publish with the Simon & Schuster imprint Scribner, he has written thrillers for the independent Hard Case Crime. Years ago, the publisher asked him to contribute a blurb, but King instead offered to write a novel for them, “The Colorado Kid,” released in 2005.

“Inside I was turning cartwheels,” Hard Case co-founder Charles Ardai would remember thinking when King contacted him.

King himself would likely benefit from the Penguin Random House-Simon & Schuster

deal, but he has a history of favoring other priorities beyond his material well-being. He has long been a critic of tax cuts for the rich, even as “the rich” surely includes Stephen King,

and has openly called for the government to raise his taxes.

“In America, we should all have to pay our fair share,” he wrote for The Daily Beast in 2012.

On Monday, attorneys for the two sides offered contrasting views of the book industry. Government attorney John Read invoked a dangerously narrow market, ruled tightly by

the “Big Five”—Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster, HarperCollins Publishing, Macmillan and Hachette—with little chance for smaller or startup publishers to break through.

Docomo Pacific supports Relay For Life Survivor Drive N’ Wave event

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, supports the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life of Guam 2022 event.

For more than 36 years, Relay For Life of Guam has continued to be one of the island’s most significant events, bringing the community together to honor every life touched by cancer—a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who has overcome cancer. The event was held at the George Washington High School Football Field in Mangilao for many years but has continued to adapt throughout the pandemic to adhere to social distancing measures. In 2020, the American Cancer Society held a text-to-donate virtual event, and in 2021, a Survivor Drive N’ Wave event at Tiyan High School.

Docomo Pacific is proud to support the first biggest in-person Relay since 2019, held at Skinner Plaza last Saturday, July 30, 2022. The day started with a Survivor motorcade from the Yigo Gym parking lot and coursed down Marine Drive to Skinner Plaza. Multiple teams surrounded the Plaza and cheered as survi-



DOCOMO PACIFIC

From left, Jared Roberto, Public Relations manager, Docomo Pacific; Dee Perez-Damian, VP of Brand and CXM, Docomo Pacific; Ed Lee, Community Development manager, American Cancer Society; Brian Borja, Enterprise Marketing brand manager, Docomo Pacific; and Eloisa Hudson, director of Enterprise Marketing, Docomo Pacific.

vors did their laps with smiles, knowing they have a community behind them. The next Relay event is the Luminaria Ceremony, which will be displayed at the Phoenix Center Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022.

“This year’s Relay For Life of Guam was our in-person comeback event since the pandemic’s start. Though the pandemic changed how we approached everything, it would not stop us. Cancer does not

stop, and neither should we. We changed our venue, the size, the length, and our fundraising end date to the end of the year [Dec. 31, 2022]. Our community is resilient, and this pandemic can’t stop our fight against cancer,” said Ed Lee, Community Development manager, American

Cancer Society.

American Cancer Society is a nationwide voluntary health organization dedicated toward the fight against cancer. For more information on the Relay For Life 2022 events in Guam, visit their website at www.relayforlife.org/guamgu. (*Docomo Pacific*)

Treasury says borrowing needs increased by \$262 billion more

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Treasury Department is seeking to borrow \$444 billion in the current quarter through September as the Federal Reserve tightens its portfolio.

Figures released Monday by the department show that to be a \$262 billion increase compared to estimates announced in May, a sign that the federal government will need to be more reliant on debt.

A Treasury official told reporters on the condition of anonymity that the department was now expecting to collect less in taxes than initially forecast. The additional debt during the July to September quarter is also due in part to the Fed’s decision in May to scale back its holdings of Treasury notes, which caused the government to rely on private and foreign investors.

The changes come at a moment of uncertainty for the U.S. economy. Many economists think a recession is on the horizon, with inflation eating into Americans’ incomes and the Fed aggres-

sively raising interest rates to lower inflation in ways that could reduce economic growth. For the first half of the year, U.S. gross domestic product has declined.

Last week, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said despite rising inflation and recession fears that “our economy remains resilient” due to high employment levels and strong household finances.

The Congressional Budget Office said last week that while higher tax revenues and other factors have caused the federal debt this year to be lower than forecast, spending commitments could imperil the U.S. economy’s 30-year outlook.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, said “excessive borrowing exacerbates rather than pushes against inflation.”

“If you’re trying to reduce demand, borrowing makes inflationary pressures worse,” she said. “This is just a reminder that structurally we’re not in a balanced situation.”



Team Docomo Pacific at Relay For Life of Guam 2022.



DOCOMO PACIFIC

Nation

Biden: Killing of al-Qaida leader is long-sought 'justice'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden announced Monday that al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Kabul, an operation he said delivered justice and hopeful-

ly "one more measure of closure" to families of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

The president said in an evening address from the White House that U.S. intelli-

gence officials tracked al-Zawahri to a home in downtown Kabul where he was hiding out with his family. The president approved the operation last week and it was carried out Sunday.

Al-Zawahri and the better-known Osama bin Laden plotted the 9/11 attacks that brought many ordinary Americans their first knowledge of al-Qaida. Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan on May 2, 2011, in

operation carried out by U.S. Navy SEALs after a nearly decade-long hunt.

As for Al-Zawahri, Biden said, "He will never again, never again, allow Afghanistan to become a terrorist safe haven because he is gone and we're going to make sure that nothing else happens."

"This terrorist leader is no more," he added.

The operation is a significant counterterrorism win for the Biden administration just 11 months after American troops left the country after a two-decade war.

The strike was carried out by the CIA, according to five people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of



Biden

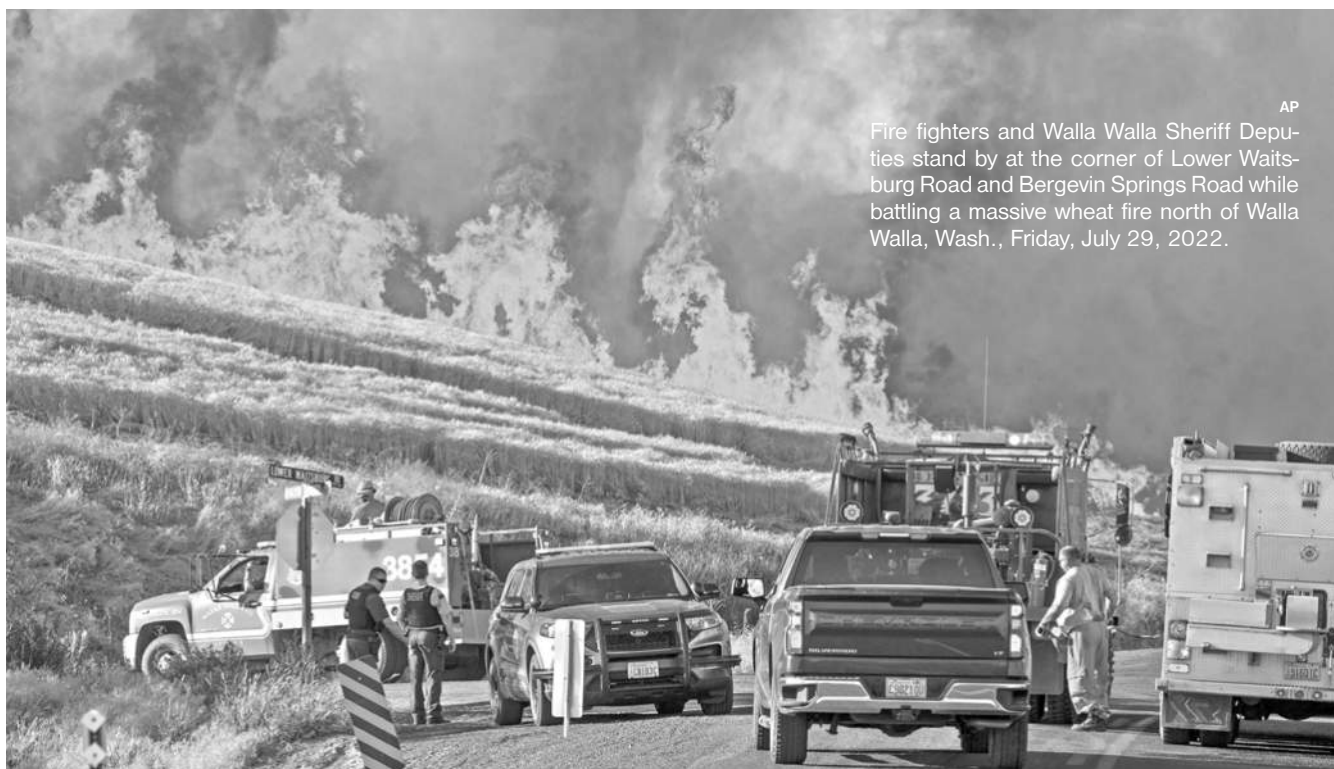
anonymity. Neither Biden nor the White House detailed the CIA's involvement in the strike.

Biden, however, paid tribute to the U.S. intelligence community in his remarks, noting that "thanks to their extraordinary persistence and skill"

the operation was a success.

Al-Zawahri's death eliminates the figure who more than anyone shaped al-Qaida, first as bin Laden's deputy since 1998, then as his successor. Together, he and bin Laden turned the jihadi movement's guns to target the United States, carrying out the deadliest attack ever on American soil—the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings.

2 found dead in charred car within California wildfire zone



Fire fighters and Walla Walla Sheriff Deputies stand by at the corner of Lower Waitsburg Road and Bergevin Springs Road while battling a massive wheat fire north of Walla Walla, Wash., Friday, July 29, 2022.

YREKA, Calif. (AP)—At least two people have died from a raging California blaze that was among several menacing thousands of homes Monday in the Western U.S.

Two bodies were found inside a charred vehicle Sunday in the driveway of a home near the remote community of Klamath River, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. The names of the victims and other details weren't immediately released.

The McKinney Fire in Northern California near the state line with Oregon exploded in size to nearly 87 square miles (225 square kilometers)

after erupting Friday in the Klamath National Forest, fire-fighting officials said. It is California's largest wildfire of the year so far and officials have not yet determined the cause.

Gusty winds from a thunderstorm powered the blaze of a few hundred acres into a massive conflagration while lightning caused a couple of smaller blazes nearby, including one near the community of Seiad Valley, fire officials said.

On Monday, heavy rain helped dampen the fire but it still threatened structures after torching more than 100, ranging from homes to greenhouses, fire and sheriff's officials said.

About 2,500 people remained under evacuation orders.

"If you get an order, that means go. This fire behavior, as you'll hear, is incredible. Don't try to fight it. Don't try to stick around," Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services Director Bryan Schenone said at a community meeting Monday evening.

Stormy and cloudy weather helped fire crews attack the blaze, and bulldozers had managed to ring the town of Yreka, fire officials said.

As of Monday, the blaze was about 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) from the town of around 7,500 people.

Valerie Linfoot's son, a fire dispatcher, called to tell her their family home of three decades in Klamath River had burned. Linfoot said her husband worked as a U.S. Forest Service firefighter for years and the family did everything they could to prepare their house for a wildfire—including installing a metal roof and trimming trees and tall grasses around the property.

"It was as safe as we could make it, and it was just so dry and so hot and the fire was going so fast," Linfoot told the Bay Area News Group. She said her neighbors have also lost homes.

More rain, more bodies in flooded Kentucky mountain communities

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Another round of rainstorms hit flooded Kentucky mountain communities Monday as more bodies emerged from the sodden landscape, and the governor warned that high winds could bring another threat—falling trees and utility poles.

Gov. Andy Beshear said the death toll rose to 37 while hundreds of people remained unaccounted for five days after one of the nation's poorest regions was swamped by nearly a foot of rain. The water poured down hillsides and into valleys and hollows, engulfing entire towns. Mudslides marooned some people on steep slopes.

Beshear suggested many of the unaccounted for would be located when cellphone service resumes.

"When cell service gets back up, we do see a whole lot of people finding people they love and care about, so looking forward to those stories," he said.

Radar indicated that up to 4 more inches (10.2 centimeters) of rain fell Sunday, and the National Weather Service warned that slow-moving showers and thunderstorms could provoke more flash flooding through Tuesday morning.

"If things weren't hard enough on the people of this region, they're getting rain right now," Beshear said Monday at the Capitol in Frankfort. "Just as concerning is high winds—think about how saturated the ground has been." The wind "could knock over poles, it could knock over trees. So people need to be careful."

ACROSS THE NATION

1 dead, 5 wounded in shooting in NE Washington

WASHINGTON (AP)—One man was killed and five others were wounded in a shooting Monday night in Northeast Washington, the Metropolitan Police Department said. The circumstances of the shooting, including whether the victims even knew each other, were being investigated, Police Chief Robert J. Contee III told reporters. The shooting occurred outside an apartment building located at 15th and F Streets Northeast, Contee said. All the victims were adult males, Contee said, and those wounded were being

treated at area hospitals.

Biden names FEMA, CDC officials to head monkeypox response

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is set to name top officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as the White House coordinators to combat the growing monkeypox outbreak. The White House said Biden will announce Tuesday that he has tapped Robert Fenton, who helped lead FEMA's mass vaccination effort for COVID-19 as the agency's acting administrator when Biden first took office, as the

White House coordinator. Dr. Demetre Daskalakis of the CDC will be named his deputy. Daskalakis, the director of the agency's HIV prevention division and a national expert on issues affecting the LG-BTQ community, previously helped lead New York City's COVID-19 response. The White House said the pair would coordinate "strategy and operations to combat the current monkeypox outbreak, including equitably increasing the availability of tests, vaccinations and treatments."

Dentist found guilty in wife's death on 2016 African safari

DENVER (AP)—A wealthy

dentist accused of fatally shooting his wife in the heart with a shotgun at the end of an African safari was found guilty of murder and mail fraud on Monday. A jury of six men and six women reached the verdict for Lawrence "Larry" Rudolph following a three week trial and a day and a half of deliberations. Rudolph, 67, was charged with foreign murder in the 2016 death of Bianca Rudolph in Zambia as well as mail fraud for cashing in \$4.8 million in life insurance claims in what prosecutors describe as a premeditated crime. Some of the money was paid out of Colorado so he was tried in Denver federal

court. He faces a maximum term of life in prison or the death penalty when he is sentenced in February.

Man going on trial in Texas in 2008 slaying of 2 daughters

DALLAS (AP)—A man who evaded arrest for more than 12 years after being accused of fatally shooting his two teenage daughters in a taxi parked near a Dallas-area hotel was going on trial this week. Testimony was scheduled to start Tuesday in the capital murder trial of 65-year-old Yaser Said, who is accused of killing 18-year-old Amina Said and 17-year-old Sarah Said on New Year's Day in 2008. Said,

described by relatives and friends as controlling and abusive, faces an automatic life sentence if convicted. Prosecutors haven't made any comments on what motivated the killings, though police documents show that before the teens were killed, their mother had fled with them to Oklahoma because they feared Said. According to a police report, a family member told investigators that Said at one point had threatened "bodily harm" against one of his daughters for dating a non-Muslim. In a letter written to the judge overseeing the case, Said said he was not happy with his kids' "dating activity" but denied killing his daughters.

Asia

Marcos Jr. says the Philippines won't rejoin international court

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Newly elected President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said Monday the Philippines has no plan to rejoin the International Criminal Court, a decision that supports his predecessor's stance but rejects the wishes of human rights activists.

Former President Rodrigo Duterte withdrew the Philippines from The Hague-based court in 2019 in a move rights activists said was an attempt to evade accountability and prevent an international probe into thousands of killings in his campaign against illegal drugs.

"The Philippines has no intention of rejoining the ICC," Marcos Jr. said in response to a question at a news conference.

Marcos Jr., who took office on June 30, said he recently met his justice secretary and other legal advisers to discuss the possible resumption of an ICC investigation into the drug killings.

Judges at the ICC in September authorized Prosecutor Karim Khan to investi-

gate killings during Duterte's crackdown from Nov. 1, 2011, to March 16, 2019.

The probe, however, was suspended in November after the Philippines said in a letter to Khan that it was already investigating the allegations so the international court did not have jurisdiction.

"We are saying there is already an investigation here and the investigation is continuing. Why will there be such?" Marcos Jr. said, questioning the possible resumption of the ICC probe.

The ICC is a court of last resort for cases that countries are unwilling or unable to prosecute. Under the court's rules, a country can request deferral of an investigation if it is already investigating on its own.

Khan, however, has sought to resume his probe, saying in June that "I have concluded that the deferral requested by



Marcos Jr.

the Philippines is not warranted, and that the investigation should resume as quickly as possible."

More than 6,000 mostly poor drug suspects were killed in Duterte's police-enforced crackdown, based on police statistics. Human rights groups say the death toll is considerably higher and should include many unsolved killings by motorcycle-riding gunmen who may have been deployed by police.

Duterte has defended the crackdown as "lawfully directed against drug lords and pushers who have for many years destroyed the present generation, especially the youth." He has denied condoning extrajudicial killings of drug suspects, although he has openly threatened suspects with death and has ordered police to shoot suspects who dangerously resist arrest.

Myanmar violence, Ukraine loom over ASEAN meetings

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Southeast Asian foreign ministers are gathering in the Cambodian capital for meetings addressing persisting violence in Myanmar and other issues, joined by top diplomats from the United States, China, Russia and other world powers amid tensions over the invasion of Ukraine and concerns over Beijing's growing ambitions in the region.

The meeting in Phnom Penh of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will see U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov together at the same venue for the second time in a month, though it's not clear whether the two will meet.

The two did not meet separately when they both attended the Group of 20 foreign ministers' meeting in Bali, Indonesia, in early July. But they had their first direct contact since before Russia invaded Ukraine in a phone call Friday, when Blinken urged Moscow to accept a deal to release American detainees Brittney Griner and Paul Whelan and discussed other issues.

Also attending is Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Many have urged Beijing to use its partnership with Russia to push for an end to the conflict in Ukraine and to help promote peace and a return to civilian rule in Myanmar after a February 2021 coup sparked mass protests and an armed resistance.

The meetings come at a time of tension between Washington and Beijing as the U.S. pushes back against China's growing economic and military influence in the Asia-Pacific.

Official announcements, local media in Taiwan reported that Pelosi will arrive in Taipei on Tuesday night, becoming the highest-ranking elected U.S. official to visit in more than 25 years. The United Daily News, Liberty Times and China Times—Taiwan's three largest national newspapers—cited unidentified sources as saying she would fly to Taipei and spend the night after visiting Malaysia. China, which regards self-ruling Taiwan as its territory, has warned of repercussions.

Sri Lankans bide time as leaders seek fix for economic woes

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankans who have endured months of fuel and

food shortages are bracing for more pain as a newly installed government scrambles to find solutions to the Indian Ocean nation's economic emergency. Like many others, fish monger Gamini Mallawarachchi says he is pinning his hopes on President Ranil Wickremesinghe's ability to revive the economy and restore stability after months of turmoil and protests. "Things are really, really bad now and my life is almost ruined," said Mallawarachchi, who has given up on selling fish because he can't find fuel to get to the village where he used to buy it, and anyway his customers were buying less and less. Mallawarachchi said he views Wickremesinghe his "last hope."

World

Blaze is contained in southern France but 4 firefighters hurt



AP

This photo provided by the fire brigade of the Gard region (SDIS 30) shows flames consume trees at a forest fire in Aubais, southern France, July 31, 2022.

PARIS (AP)—A weekend wildfire in the southern French Gard region that injured four firefighters has now been contained, officials said Monday.

Firefighter spokesman Col. Eric Agrinier told French media that 370 hectares (915 acres) were burned and two homes affected by the flames.

But he highlighted "dozens and dozens of houses were preserved and (we saw) a human toll of zero casualties among civilians."

The fire was contained overnight Sunday with some 400 firefighters monitoring the blaze Monday morning, according to the civil protection agency.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted an alert on Sunday regarding the fire that broke out around 3 p.m. in a pine forest in Aubais, a village of 2,000. Several families were evacuated.

France is set to face another heat wave, and several regions have been put on alert for possible wildfires.

Fuel tanker truck catches fire in Libya; 9 dead, 76 injured

CAIRO (AP)—A fuel tanker truck caught fire and exploded Monday in central Libya, killing at least nine people and injuring 76 others, health authorities said.

The incident took place in the central town of Bent Bayya when the tanker truck overturned before catching fire and exploding, the state-run Libya News agency reported.

The agency said residents in the area rushed to collect leaked gasoline despite

warnings of possible fire and explosion, causing the high casualty tolls. Such incidents occasionally happen in impoverished areas where safety measures are mostly neglected.

The state-run Emergency Services in the area gave the casualty tolls. The injured were taken to the medical center in the nearby city of Sabha, said Halima al-Mahri, a spokeswoman for the center.

Al-Mahri said at least 16

critically injured were evacuated to hospitals in the capital of Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi.

The center posted footage, including graphic images, of people at an emergency ward receiving treatment for their burns.

It was not immediately clear what caused the tanker to overturn and explode. Fathi Bashagha, one of Libya's rival prime ministers, said he ordered an investigation into the incident.

Threat of protests, violence stirs fears in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Thousands gathered in Baghdad on Monday for a counter-rally called by Iran-backed groups against their rival, an influential cleric whose followers are staging a sit-in inside the Iraqi parliament — only to withdraw hours later.

It wasn't immediately clear if the pullback by supporters of the Coordination Framework, an alliance lead by Shiite parties close to Iran, was a definite de-escalation in their power struggle with cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's loyalists.

Al-Sadr's followers have been camped out inside the

parliament in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone since thousands stormed the building on Saturday, demanding reforms and denouncing the Iran-backed alliance. Al-Sadr's representative have called on supporters in Iraqi provinces to protest in their cities and towns in support of the parliament sit-in.

Dueling protests between the two major Shiite factions would have raised the prospect of escalating tensions and plunged Iraq deeper into crisis. The country has struggled with a political vacuum 10 months since federal elections were held last October

with no one winning an outright parliament majority and tensions remain high.

Earlier Monday, Iraqi security forces erected concrete barriers ahead of the street protests by the Iran-backed groups.

By early afternoon, thousands of Shiite men arrived at the July 14th Bridge, which leads to the Green Zone, waving Iraqi flags and those belonging to Iran-backed groups and figures. They wore black, the custom ahead of the holy day of Ashura, an important day of mourning in the Shiite Muslim calendar. Ashoura starts on Sunday.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pelosi arrives in Malaysia, tensions rise over Taiwan visit

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Malaysia on Tuesday for the second leg of an Asian tour that has been clouded by an expected stop in Taiwan, which would escalate tensions with Beijing. The plane carrying Pelosi and her delegation touched down at an air force base amid tight security, national news agency Bernama reported. She called on lower house Speaker Azhar Azizan Harun in Parliament and adjourned for a luncheon meet with Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Bernama said. While there have been no of-

Life & Style

Neil Patrick Harris is suddenly single in comedy 'Uncoupled'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Neil Patrick Harris has played an impressive number of what he calls “extreme characters,” which made his role in the comedy “Uncoupled” especially appealing.

“I was attracted to the notion of a bit of normalcy” and nuance, he said of his refreshing dip into the Netflix series. He plays a suddenly single New Yorker, dumped by his partner of 17 years, stumbling into an unfamiliar dating world.

The eight-episode “Uncoupled,” which debuted Friday, represents a still relatively rare Hollywood commodity: a rom-com with a gay character as the lovable hero of the story.

That increased its value for Harris, as did the show’s veteran, TV homerun-hitting writer-producers: Darren Star (“Sex and the City,” “Emily in Paris”) and Jeffrey Richman (“Modern Family,” “Frasier”).

“As a gay man myself, I thought that having content that was representational was great on a streaming platform



BARBARA NITKE/NETFLIX VIA AP

This image released by Netflix shows Neil Patrick Harris in a scene from “Uncoupled.”

like Netflix,” Harris said. Star and Richman’s knack for making fare with broad appeal is proven, and Harris marvels at the show’s skillful juggling of the sad and the “ridiculously funny.”

“I thought that that was all something that hasn’t necessarily been done before. And I was honored to be asked to be a part of it, to be honest,” said the Emmy-winning actor whose eclectic

string of screen credits since he started as a teen actor include “Doogie Howser, M.D.,” “How I Met Your Mother,” “Gone Girl” and “The Matrix Resurrections.” On Broadway, he earned a Tony Award for “Hedwig and the Angry Inch.”

In “Uncoupled,” Harris’ Michael is a Manhattan real estate agent who works with a candid and loyal colleague (Tisha Campbell), has a supportive cir-

cle of friends and is coming to grips with life as an unmoored, 40-something man.

The role’s emotional demands made it a “very risky, scary move” for Harris to sign on, Star said. “I would say, gay or straight, I’ve never seen such vulnerability from a male character. It’s a guy going through the pain of a breakup, and you don’t really get to see it that often.”

A birthday party scene in the first episode calls for Michael to publicly toast his partner Colin (Tuc Watkins) to a crowd unaware the pair have just split. It’s a tour de force moment for Harris.

“His authenticity and emotion, it was so remarkable. When an actor elevates your writing like that, it’s why you are a writer,” Richman said.

Harris and the show’s creators are on the same page regarding what the show is not intended to be: a political statement.

“It’s almost the opposite,” said Star. “It was like, this

is where we are. It’s where the world, the audience has moved, they want to see a show like this. You don’t have to be gay to see yourself reflected in these characters because it’s so much about the humanity of this experience.”

Harris sees value in a work that is “just a slice of representation without agenda....If one tries too hard to accomplish a specific agenda with art, it’ll be met with both extremes. The people that love it will embrace it, and the people who don’t love it will be affronted by it.”

Rapper Mystikal again accused of rape; being held without bond

By JANET McCON-NAUGHEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rapper Mystikal was jailed in Louisiana on Monday, accused of rape more than a year after prosecutors dropped charges that had kept him jailed for 18 months in another part of the state.

Michael “Mystikal” Tyler was arrested on charges including rape and domestic abuse battery, Sheriff Bobby Webre of Ascension Parish, just outside Baton Rouge, said in a Facebook post Monday.

The 51-year-old hip-hop legend is being held without bond on 10 charges, according to the sheriff’s office inmate lookup.

Attorney Joel Pearce, of Shreveport, who represented the rapper in the earlier case, said he believes bond will be discussed at a hearing



Mystikal

Tuesday in Ascension Parish.

“I’m expecting it to be a big bond,” he said.

Pearce said he has not been retained for Tyler’s current case but they are supposed to meet Wednesday or Thursday to discuss the case.

He said he will make a statement then.

Pearce represented the rapper on charges brought in 2017 accusing him of a sexual assault at a Shreveport casino in 2016. Prosecutors dropped those rape and kidnapping charges in December 2020 after new evidence was presented to a grand jury and it did not bring a new indictment.

Shreveport is more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) northwest of Ascension Parish.

Report: Prince Charles’ charity got donation from bin Ladens

LONDON (AP)—Britain’s Prince Charles is facing more questions over his charities after a newspaper reported that one of his funds accepted a 1 million pound (\$1.2 million) donation from relatives of Osama bin Laden.

The Sunday Times reported that the Prince of Wales’s Charitable Fund received the money in 2013 from Bakr bin Laden, patriarch of the large and wealthy Saudi family, and his brother Shafiq. Both are half-brothers of the former al-Qaida leader, who was killed

by U.S. special forces in Pakistan in 2011.

The newspaper said advisers had urged the heir to the throne not to take the donation.

Charles’ Clarence House office disputed that but confirmed the donation had been made. It said the decision to accept the money was taken by the charity’s trustees, not the prince, and “thorough due diligence was undertaken in accepting this donation.”

The fund’s chairman, Ian Cheshire, also said the dona-

tion was agreed “wholly” by the five trustees at the time, and “any attempt to suggest otherwise is misleading and inaccurate.”

The Prince of Wales’s Charitable Fund was founded in 1979 to “transform lives and build sustainable communities,” and gives grants to a wide variety of projects in Britain and around the world.

Charles, 73, has faced a series of claims about the operation of his charities. Last month the Sunday Times re-

ported he had accepted bags of cash containing \$3 million from Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, the former prime minister of Qatar.

London police are currently investigating a separate allegation that people associated with another of the prince’s charities, the Prince’s Foundation, offered to help a Saudi billionaire secure honors and citizenship in return for donations. Clarence House has said Charles had no knowledge of any such offer.

Mom’s lack of inhibition troubles son’s girlfriend

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my 45-year-old boyfriend, “Doug,” for six years. His mother, who was widowed five years ago, has moved here to Florida from New Jersey. Doug is very protective of her, which I kind of understand because she’s 63. The kicker is, she has started flashing her breasts at us. I’m pretty sure she does it to Doug when I’m not around as well. I have mentioned to him multiple times about how disturbing it is, but he brushes it off and refuses to confront her. We have adult children, and she recently went into the pool with all of them with nothing on. It is starting to worry me. I don’t want to be the one to confront her because it will get ugly.

FLASHED IN FLORIDA

DEAR FLASHED: Has Doug’s mother always been a “free spirit” who thinks flashing and skinny-dipping are amusing, or is her exhibitionistic behavior something new? If she has always been this way, someone should point out that what she’s doing is inappropriate unless it’s clear that nobody minds. In this case, YOU mind, and I wouldn’t be surprised if your adult children were also less than enthusiastic about the woman’s performance. If her exhibitionism is something new, then she should be evaluated, first by a doctor who specializes in geriatric

patients and, if necessary, referred to one who specializes in geriatric psychiatry.

♦♦♦♦

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married 36 years. Ask anyone who knows us, and they’ll say we are the perfect couple —no major issues, loving, trusting, etc. I was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia three years ago, and my wife has been a godsend. I couldn’t ask for a better partner.

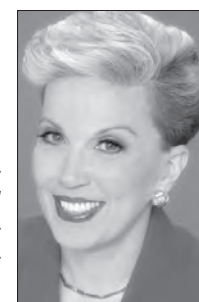
The other day I overheard her on the phone, and something she said caught my attention. When I asked her about it, she confessed that she had cheated. She said it had happened two or three times, two or three years ago with her first boyfriend from college. He had contacted her to get together for coffee, and he kissed her. The next time he came to our town, they met at his hotel room and had sex. Abby, I am devastated, but there is nothing I can do. I am 50% dependent on her, and it will only increase. She said I can ask her anything at all, and she will answer me honestly. I haven’t yet, because I’m still in shock. Please help me figure out what to do.

FEW OPTIONS IN NEVADA

DEAR FEW OPTIONS: I can only imagine how hurt you must be, and for that you have my sympathy. Because you need your wife to care for you during the course of your

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

illness, the most obvious thing I can suggest is that you not ask her these kinds of questions. Her infidelity may have happened because she was devastated by the medical diagnosis you had just received. The healthiest thing for both of you would be to respect her for her honesty and forgive her for her moments of weakness.

♦♦♦♦

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



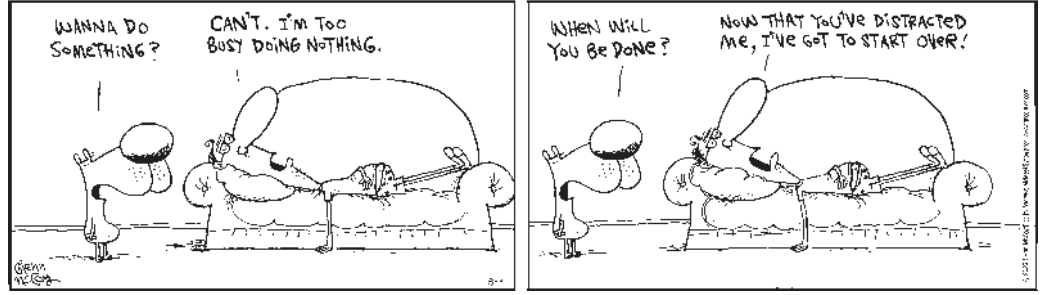
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Water-
loo"
group

5 Financial
pro

8 Sci-fi
vehicles

12 Starring
role

13 — Royal
Highness

14 Worn-
down
pencils

15 Nose and
mouth
covering

17 Move like
a butterfly

18 Short
sock

19 Curved
fasteners

21 Shoe
width

22 Tropical
tree

23 Santa's
helper

26 Highland
hat

28 Prettify

31 Painter
Joan

33 Coffee
vessel

35 A few
slangily

DOWN

38 Bro's kin

40 Compass
dir.

41 And
others
(Lat.)

43 Goal

45 Filmed
anew

47 Lubricate

51 Mountain
ht.

52 Gathering
organized
via social
media

54 Jai —

55 Sailor

56 Skater
Lipinski

57 Chorus
syllables

58 Govt.
lender

59 ABA
member

1 —

2 Legume

3 Support

4 "Skyfall"
singer

5 French
vineyard

6 Math
ratios

7 Invite

8 Develops
to one's
loft

9 Spec-
tacular

10 Last
write-up

11 Bygone
filers

16 Bump
into

20 Sheepish
remark

23 German
river

24 Sass

25 Comp
for a
foodie

27 —

29 LBJ's
suc-
cessor

30 Formerly
known as

32 Spencer
of
"Hidden
Figures"

34 — Falls

37 Blue

39 Round
Table
titles

42 Certain
jabs

44 Maestro
Zubin —

45 Genuine

46 Big
name
in scat

48 Latin 101
word

49 Type

50 Online
auction
site

53 Science
room

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-3

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hannah Simone, 42; Michael Ealy, 49; Martin Sheen, 82; Tony Bennett, 96. **Happy Birthday:** Being a good listener will help you fly under the radar when faced with controversy. The information you gather will give you an inside view of what's possible and an advantage in competitive situations. Turn this year into one of progress, hard work and rewards that encourage you to let go of the past and move forward with optimism. Your numbers are 3, 11, 19, 25, 28, 36, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Push for what you want. Take charge of entertainment. Step into the spotlight and show everyone what you can contribute. Your attitude will make a difference to the reception you receive. Let charm, intellect and action be your calling cards. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Listen to good advice and revise your plans to ensure success. Keep tabs on what's going on, but don't interfere in something that can disrupt your relationship with someone you love. Take better care of your health, reputation and position. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll draw attention if you speak up and share your thoughts. Look for opportunities, and you'll come across something that makes you feel comfortable and excited about your future. Explore the possibilities and head in the direction that suits your lifestyle. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a step back from whatever situation you face and rethink your strategy. Too much of

anything will set you back. Keep life simple, control your reactions and pursue long-term goals. Being insightful and resourceful is encouraged, and self-improvement is favored. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let the changes others make lead you astray. Concentrate on what's important, and rely on intelligence to close deals. Don't expect to please everyone, but do your best to be fair and offer options to eliminate conflict. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Change begins with you and your choices. Dig deep, and you'll discover what makes you happy. Incorporate your skills with plans that put a smile on your face. Take control and join forces with people who share your sentiments. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let sentimentality take over. Revise your day to include putting your responsibilities behind you before moving on to enjoyable pastimes. Having the discipline and insight to do things right the first time will help you avoid criticism. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Address issues that limit progress. Finish what you start before you move on to something new. Refuse to let things build up that will stand between you and what you need. Focus on health, emotional well-being and taking care of business. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money matters will escalate if you are too generous. Don't let anyone take advantage of your charitable attitude. Put more time and effort into your home, and invest in yourself and your future. Learn from the experts. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep moving forward, regardless of what others do or say. Put your energy into transformation. Nurture relationships and adjust your living arrangements to suit your needs. You can't buy love, but you can earn respect. Romance will enhance your life. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let uncertainty throw you off course. Choose the path that interests you most, and don't worry about what everyone else pursues. Take responsibility for your happiness, and look for opportunities that encourage you to follow your heart. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Wheel and deal until you get the results you want. A financial gain is possible if you invest in something familiar to you. A lifestyle change looks promising; however, you may require a push to head in a new direction. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are forceful, persistent and dramatic. You are emotional and unpredictable.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3	4	8					1	7
			8	1	3			5	9
					6			3	
				6	1	3			
		2					6		
1	9		2					3	
9								7	
	6	3	5					2	
			3	7				6	

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/03

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	7	3	6	4	9	1	2	5
9	6	2	1	5	3	4	7	8
1	5	4	8	2	7	9	6	3
3	4	6	7	1	2	8	5	9
7	8	1	5	9	4	6	3	2
5	2	9	3	8	6	7	4	1
2	9	5	4	6	1	3	8	7
4	1	7	2	3	8	5	9	6
6	3	8	9	7	5	2	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MAINE LOBSTER FESTIVAL

Solution: 7 letters

C P V I N E S T A N D S S C S
X O E S E H T O L C P P R M W
K O R R T T B U S I I O A U O
C C B O F T A E H C W T B S H
O O D N O T S E D T T V S S
D B N S N A R E T E V E E E E
D B W C R A T M S E N R Q L I
A L H I E S S I A D F Y Q S R
H E P G N R D C O N T E S T R
F R D I A N T R C N C E I E E
S U E C R N E S A H T E B K B
F T E D T R N R Y W S T O R E
S S N E I H G U O D A I E A U
F R I E S P A R A D E W D M L
C R A F T S M E N L F O O D B

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Annual, Artist, Awards, Bars, Bisque, Blueberries, Booths, Brew, Chef, Clothes, Coast, Cobbler, Concerts, Contest, Coronation, Craftsman, Crowd, Dish, Dough, Feast, Feed, Food, Fresh, Fries, Fudge, Haddock, Market, Mussels, Parade, Performance, Pirates, Pottery, Races, Sandbox, Ship, Shows, Spice, Stands, Steins, Store, Taste, Tents, Vendor, Veterans, Vines, Winner
Yesterday's Answer: Footboards
Tresuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 49 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Bill Russell lived a life like very few others

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

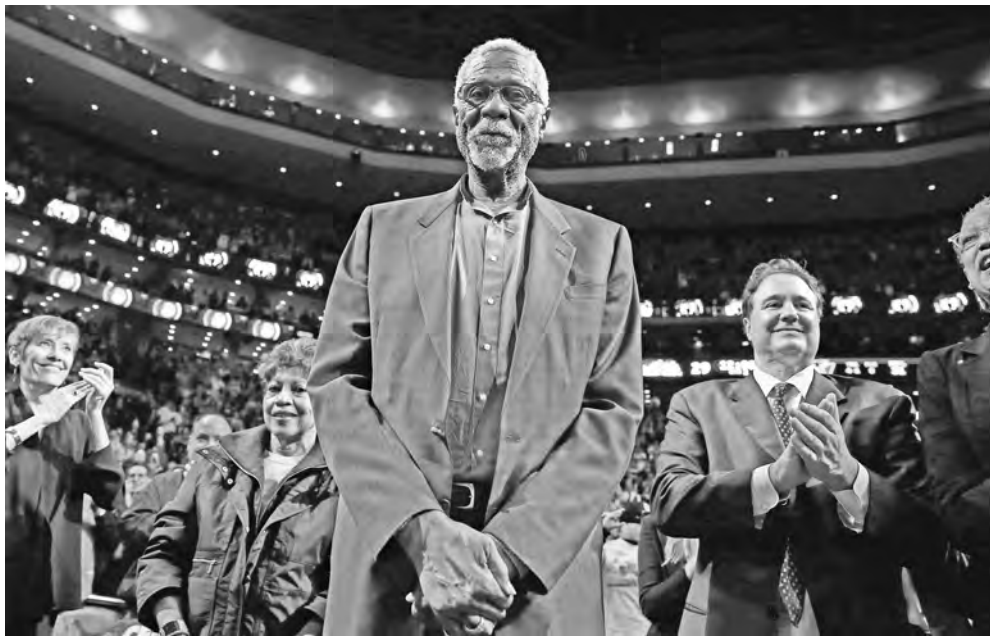


Bill Russell hated autographs. Saw no point to them. If he was out dining and got approached by someone asking for his signature, Russell's usual response was to instead ask the person to join him at the table to have a conversation about life.

The autograph-seekers almost always declined.

Oh, the stories they missed.

Russell, the greatest winner in the history of team sports, died Sunday at 88. The basketball legacy is beyond well-known: 11 championships in 13 years with the Boston Celtics, first Black coach in the NBA, first Black coach to win an NBA title, Hall of Fame player, Hall of Fame coach, Olympic champion, NCAA champion, member of the league's 75th anniversary team, and the namesake of the NBA Finals MVP award which, had it existed when he played, he would have won at least a half-dozen times.



Boston Celtics legend Bill Russell stands court side during a tribute in his honor in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks in Boston, Nov. 1, 2013. AP

But if those souvenir hounds had taken Russell up on the chance to sit with him for a meal, they might have heard about his obsession with golf. Or the mating habits of bees, something he penned a column about once. Or expensive cars

with souped-up sound systems so he could blare the music of Laura Nyro, Janis Ian, or Crosby, Stills and Nash — some of his favorites.

"His mind was bigger than basketball," author Taylor Branch, who spent about a year

living with Russell near Seattle in the 1970s while working with him on a book, said Sunday. "And so was his personality, as great as he was in basketball."

Take away all the on-court accomplishments, and Russell still lived a life.

He stood side-by-side with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s, the height of the civil rights movement. He was in the audience when King delivered the "I Have A Dream" speech in Washington in 1963. He marched in Mississippi after the slaying of civil rights leader Medgar Evers. He supported Muhammad Ali when the fighter refused to go to Vietnam. He helped start the National Basketball Players Association. President Barack Obama — at about 6-foot-2, a taller-than-average individual — had to stretch a bit when draping the Presidential Medal of Freedom around Russell's neck in 2011, even after Russell crouched down to accommodate the moment.

"He endured insults and vandalism, but he kept on focusing on making the teammates who he loved better players, and made possible the success of so many who would follow," Obama said that day. "And I hope that one day, in the streets of Boston, children will look up at a statue built not only to Bill

Russell the player, but Bill Russell the man."

Russell once got asked a question about being a Black star in Boston, a city with a complicated history when it comes to race. The premise was that it had to be difficult for Russell to live in such a place, to play for fans in such a city.

"What I ascribed to do, and I did quite well, is every time I came into an adversarial situation, I decided to take control of it so that if a guy came up to me and tried to give me a bad day, I made sure that he was the one who left with the bad day," Russell said. "And so, to do this took thought, planning and discretion and intelligence. That was the way I conducted my life."

Case in point: The apparent invasion of raccoons into Reading, Massachusetts, around 1958.

In his second season with the Celtics, Russell bought a house in Reading. He left for a road trip and his garbage cans got turned over. Same thing happened during the season's second road trip. Russell went to the police, who surmised that raccoons must be the culprits. Russell asked for a gun permit.

"The raccoons heard about that," Russell said. "Never turned the trash cans over again."

The gun never got purchased, either.

It would be a disservice — an insult, really — to look at Russell as only a basketball player, even as one of the greatest ever. He's still second on the NBA's all-time rebounding list, behind only Wilt Chamberlain, and will probably be in that spot forever since nobody has come remotely close to him in the last 50 years. He won five MVP awards, tied for second-most with Michael Jordan, one behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's league record.

"That's what I did," Russell said in 2009. "It wasn't who I was."

That's the lesson. He didn't shut up and dribble. He stood for what he believed, stood with who he believed in. Being fearless on the basketball court was easy. Being fearless in the real world — even when dealing with matters of race in some of the nation's darkest times on that topic — was somehow even easier.

"He had such curiosity about human nature, about psychology," Branch said. "It was a treasure for me to be around Bill and see how he viewed the world in all of its dimensions."

The world has many of them. So did Russell. And on Sunday, the world lost an absolute legend.

Oh, the stories we will miss.

Russell's legacy of NBA championships, cerebral fight for equal rights

(THE CONVERSATION)—On May 1, 1968, Bill Russell led the Boston Celtics to another NBA championship, triumphing over the rival Los Angeles Lakers.

But this time Russell was not just the star center, the defensive stalwart, the linchpin of pro basketball's most extraordinary dynasty.

He was also the coach.

During the locker room celebration, reporters marveled at Russell's legacy of achievement. What else he could possibly achieve?

He deflected the question.

"To tell you the truth, it's been a long time since I tried to prove anything to anybody," he said.

He got quiet for a second.

"I know who I am."

Undisputed champion

Russell, who died on July 31, 2022, had a winning record in basketball that is unmatched.

From 1954 to 1956, he steered the University of San Francisco as a player to two consecutive NCAA championships and a record 55-game winning streak.

At the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, he dominated the court and drove the United States to a gold medal. And during his 13-year professional career with the Boston Celtics, Russell won an astonishing 11 NBA titles — the last two, in 1968 and 1969, as the player-coach.

In my biography of Russell, "King of the Court," I argued that he spearheaded a "basketball revolution."

During his athletic reign, the sport transformed from a white man's game with a small-time, "bush league" reputation into a dynamic, modern, nationally televised sport associated with Black culture.

Russell was also the NBA's essential barrier-breaker: its first Black superstar, its first Black champion, its first Black coach.

Most fascinating, though, was Russell himself.

As suggested by his proud comment after the 1968 title, he undertook an intellectual and personal journey during his career. He sought to find worth in basketball amid the racial tumult of the civil rights movement.

He emerged from that crucible not only as a stronger man, but also as one of the most potent figures at the intersection of sports and politics.

A reluctant sports hero

As fans crowded him for autographs at Madison Square Garden in December 1962, Russell raised a poignant question.

"What does all this mean?" he asked. "This is without depth. This is a very shallow thing."

A few weeks later he confessed, "I feel that playing basketball is just marking time. I don't feel that this can be it for a man. I haven't accomplished anything, really. What contribution have I made of which I can be really proud?"

At that point, Russell had won three MVP awards

and five NBA titles. He had emerged as a hero in the media-driven rivalry with the taller and stronger scoring machine, Wilt Chamberlain.

The Celtics won plaudits for their spirit of cooperation, serving as sports' greatest example of racial integration in action.

Yet Russell chafed at every reminder that he was still a second-class citizen.

He refused to accept segregated accommodations on road trips. During a 1961 pre-season tour, when a hotel coffee shop in Lexington, Kentucky, refused service to two teammates, Russell boycotted the exhibition game, and the Black players on both teams followed suit.

After the 1962 season, while driving back to his native Louisiana, he and his two young sons had to sleep one night in their car because no hotels would accommodate Black people.

If this happened to the best basketball player in the world, how much could basketball matter?

Militant activism

In response, Russell crafted a persona that one teammate called "a kingly arrogance."

Most Black athletes gained wider public acceptance by acting humble and gracious.

In stark contrast, Russell started refusing to sign autographs. The ritual made him feel like a commodity, rather than a man with a real personality and his own ideas. He resolved to express his political

opinions with fearless honesty.

During the 1963-64 season, in profiles in Sports Illustrated and the Saturday Evening Post, Russell questioned the philosophy of nonviolence espoused by Martin Luther King Jr., and he defended the ideas of Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam.

"We have got to make the white population uncomfortable and keep it uncomfortable," he insisted, "because that is the only way to get their attention."

In his 1966 memoir, "Go Up for Glory," Russell extolled the ideals of American democracy, but he kept describing its shortcomings in practice.

He recalled such indignities as police brutality during his teenage years in Oakland, the racist fans who called him slurs such as "baboon" and the bigotry of the Boston press who praised white stars like Bob Cousy at Russell's expense.

He urged the Black freedom movement to grow more aggressive, to express Black unity and anger.

"It's a thing you want to scream," he wrote. "I MUST HAVE MY MANHOOD."

Such militant pronouncements stoked a backlash from not only conservatives who resented him, but also from liberals who felt betrayed.

Russell stood firm.

He had weathered his period of personal crisis, and he had sharpened the tools to express his authentic humanity, whatever the consequences.

Bigger than sports

In the late 1960s, Russell's career entered its most extraordinary and underappreciated phase.

When he replaced Red Auerbach as coach, the aging Boston squad no longer dominated the NBA, and the Celtics lost in the 1967 playoffs, spurring doubts about Russell's viability as player-coach.

Then, improbably, he led the Celtics to two more titles.

By the time he retired in 1969, the Boston press could no longer doubt his significance.

"The Celtics story," wrote Jerry Nason of the Boston Globe, "is bigger than the sports page."

At the same time, he stood like a lighthouse for his fellow Black athletes. When Muhammad Ali was exiled from professional boxing for refusing to serve in the Vietnam War, Russell described him as a man of principle.

When Black athletes threatened to boycott the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, Russell supported their cause.

For a generation, Bill Russell and the Boston Celtics had showcased the glorious possibilities of racial integration. But Russell had demanded that the public see the Black athlete as something more than a symbol.

"We see each other as men," he said after the Celtics' final triumph in 1969. "We judge a guy by his character."

As he defined his place in the world, Russell had demanded the same of the public.

Scherzer beats former team despite giving up homer to Soto



WASHINGTON (AP)—

Pete Alonso and Francisco Lindor homered, Max Scherzer defeated his former team, and the New York Mets beat the Washington Nationals 7-3 Monday night for their seventh consecutive victory on the eve of ace Jacob deGrom's season debut.

Washington slugger Juan Soto homered off Scherzer in what could be his final game with the Nationals. Soto, who walked in his other three plate appearances, is perhaps the biggest star who could be dealt before Tuesday's trade deadline.

"I feel good where I'm at," Soto said. "I understand it's a business and they need to do whatever they need to do. I'm just another player, another employee here like (former teammate Ryan Zimmerman) used to say."

Several current teammates could also leave Washington as the Nationals, who own the majors' worst record at 35-69 and have lost four of five, look to sell for the second consecutive year.

The first-place Mets could acquire some more pieces at the deadline, but their biggest addition will likely be deGrom. The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner, shut down in spring training with a stress reaction in his right scapula, has not pitched in the majors since July 2021 and will come off the injured list Tuesday. He missed the second half of last season with right forearm tightness and a sprained elbow.

Regardless of any potential moves, New York had more than enough Monday to handle Patrick Corbin (4-15) and the Nationals. Jeff McNeil, Tomás Nido and Starling Marte all had RBI singles in the second, and Alonso lined his 27th homer into the visitors' bullpen in left field an inning later.

Alonso's homer was the fifth of his career against Corbin, his most against any pitcher. He is a .382 lifetime hitter (13 for 34) against the left-hander.

Lindor added a three-run drive in the sixth off reliever Steve Cishek as New York improved to 9-2 this season against Washington.

Cishek hit Lindor in the face with a pitch April 8, leading to a bench-clearing scuffle — an experience that weighed on Lindor.

"It hasn't been comfortable since I got hit," Lindor said. "The last at-bat against him, I struck out. Today, he hit Marte and all I was saying was, 'Please don't hit me.' The first pitch was inside

and it made me very, very uncomfortable. I was scared, but thank God I was able to put a good swing and it went out. I was very happy — No. 1 because I made it through the at-bat, and No. 2 because I helped the team."

Scherzer (7-2) won two Cy Young Awards with Washington, made six All-Star appearances in seven seasons and helped the Nationals win the 2019 World Series before getting dealt to the Dodgers at last year's trade deadline. He allowed three runs (two earned) in 6 2/3 innings and struck out five while throwing a season-high 105 pitches.

"Command-wise, he wasn't normally where he's spoiled us at," New York manager Buck Showalter said. "To be able to compete through that was something to watch. I kind of enjoy those in a way. They kind of remind me of why guys like him are different."

Scherzer is 2-1 with a 1.62 ERA in six starts since returning from the injured list July 5.

Soto, a two-time All-Star and one of the few pivotal pieces remaining from Washington's 2019 title team, was applauded loudly throughout the night. He walked in the first, moved to third on Josh Bell's double and scored on Marte's throwing error from right field. Soto also belted Scherzer's pitch in the fourth to center field for his 21st homer of the season and 119th — and perhaps last — with the Nationals.

Yankees 7, Mariners 2

In New York, Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 43rd home run, Jose Trevino had his first multihomer game and the Yankees beat the Mariners in a series opener between teams bulking up for the postseason.

Anthony Rizzo started the onslaught with a three-run homer in the first, and New York clinched its 31st consecutive winning record at home (41-13), second only to its big league standard of 47 in row from 1918-64.

Before the game, the Yankees acquired starter Frankie Montas and reliever Lou Trivino from Oakland, three days after Seattle obtained Luis Castillo.

After Kyle Lewis' solo homer in the second against Domingo Germán (1-1), Judge hit a two-run drive in the bottom half. Judge also leads the majors with 93 RBIs.

Royals 2, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Salvador Perez and Whit Merrifield hit solo home runs, Daniel Lynch took a shutout into the sixth



New York Mets starting pitcher Max Scherzer throws during the second inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park, Monday, Aug. 1, 2022, in Washington.

inning in his return from the injured list and the Royals edged the White Sox.

Perez launched a monster blast for the second straight game and his third homer in four contests after missing 31 games with a left thumb injury and surgery. The seven-time All Star has eight RBIs in the span.

Merrifield's drive into the left-field bullpen off Michael Kopech (4-7) in the sixth might have been his last with Kansas City. A two-time All Star in seven seasons with the Royals, the second baseman has been the subject of trade rumors heading into Tuesday's deadline.

Tim Anderson and Andrew Vaughn each had two hits off Lynch (4-7), but the White Sox slipped back to .500 (51-51). Pinch-hitter Gavin Sheets drove in a run with sac fly in the seventh.

Dodgers 8, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Trea Turner homered to extend his hitting streak to 19 games, Max Muncy also went deep, and the Dodgers beat the Giant.

Freddie Freeman had three hits, including a double, and two RBIs as the Dodgers won for the fifth time in six games to improve to 23-5 since June 30.

Wilmer Flores hit his team-leading 16th homer for the Giants, who are 3-9 since the All-Star break after winning five of their previous six.

Will Smith had a run-scoring double off Giants starter Logan Webb (9-5) in a three-run third in which Los Angeles broke open a 2-1 game.

Padres 4, Rockies 1

In San Diego, Jurickson

Profar homered for the third straight game and Mike Clevinger pitched seven impressive innings for the Padres, who beat the Rockies in the opener of a five-game series.

Trent Grisham also connected for the Padres, who won for just the fourth time in 12 games against the pesky Rockies this season.

Profar homered on the second pitch from Antonio Senzatela (3-6), his third career leadoff homer and the first time he's ever homered in three consecutive games. His shot to right field was his 12th.

Profar also made a diving catch of Randal Grichuk's sinking liner in left field for the second out of the fourth.

Clevinger (3-3) won for the first time in five start.

Red Sox 3, Astros 2

In Houston, Jarren Duran homered and drove in a career-high three RBIs, and the Boston Red Sox overcame sloppy fielding early for a win over Houston as the Astros made a pair of important moves a day before the MLB trade deadline.

Houston led 2-1 after scoring twice, thanks to errors in the third inning.

The Red Sox still trailed by a run when Bobby Dalbec walked to start the fifth. There were two outs in the inning when Duran smacked his second homer of the season into the seats in right field to make it 3-2.

The 25-year-old Duran got the Red Sox on the board in the third inning when he drove in a run with a ground-rule double.

Nathan Eovaldi (5-3) allowed four hits and no earned

runs with six strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings to get his first win since June 8.

Houston starter Luis Garcia (8-7) yielded six hits and three runs in seven innings for his second straight loss.

Guardians 6, Diamondbacks 5, 11 innings

In Cleveland, Amed Rosario homered early and singled in the winning run in the 11th inning for his third hit of the game as the Guardians beat the Diamondbacks.

Rosario hit a line drive past a diving Christian Walker at first base and into right field to score rookie Will Benson from third, setting off a celebration behind the mound.

Rosario, who launched a two-run homer in the third, lined a 1-0 pitch in the 11th from Mark Melancon (3-10), the Diamondbacks' 10th pitcher. Benson began the inning as the automatic runner at second and moved to third on Austin Hedges' bunt.

Steven Kwan walked and stole second, but Myles Straw grounded out before Rosario gave Cleveland its fifth walk-off win of the season.

Arizona advanced a runner to third with one out in the 11th, but Sam Hentges (3-2) retired Jake McCarthy on a line drive to second baseman Andrés Giménez, and pinch-hitter Buddy Kennedy struck out.

Reds 3, Marlins 1

In Miami, rookie right-hander Hunter Greene won for the first time in nearly two months, allowing one hit in six scoreless innings to lead the Reds over the reel-

ing Marlins.

Albert Almora Jr. had three hits, including two doubles, in his first game off the injured list. Joey Votto walked twice and singled for the Reds, who won their third in a row as they began a four-city, 10-game trip.

Cincinnati outfielder Tommy Pham was in the original lineup, then removed and traded to Boston for a player to be named or cash.

Miami has lost eight straight home games and 11 of 15 overall.

Greene (4-12) struck out eight and walked none. He had been 0-5 in eight starts since beating Arizona on June 6.

Orioles 7, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Cedric Mullins homered leading off Baltimore's first game without Trey Mancini, Anthony Santander extended his hitting streak to 12 games with an RBI single and the Orioles matched their 2021 win total with a win over the Rangers.

Hours after the Orioles traded their longest-tenured player and fan favorite, with Mancini going to Houston in a three-team deal, they won their 52nd game to get back over .500 and within 2 1/2 games of the American League's final wildcard spot. Baltimore was 52-110 last season.

Spenser Watkins (4-1) struck out five without a walk over six innings. The only run allowed by the right-hander was on a solo homer by Corey Seager in the sixth inning.

Twins 5, Tigers 3, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Gio Urshela hit a game-ending, two-run homer in the 10th inning and Jose Miranda had three RBIs as the Twins came back to beat the Tigers and maintain their one-game lead in the AL Central.

Miranda hit a tying, two-run single in the eighth, long after Tigers starter Tarik Skubal was pulled following five scoreless innings with left arm fatigue.

Akil Baddoo delivered a go-ahead single in the top of the 10th off Griffin Jax (5-2) against the team that drafted him six years ago.

Miranda responded in the bottom of the inning by driving in the automatic runner with a single, and then Urshela finished it with

his high drive onto the grass berm beyond center field against Alex Lange (4-2). That kept the Twins alone in first place, just ahead of Cleveland after the Guardians beat Arizona in 11 innings.

Man Amigos remain perfect in BASA league

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Man Amigos maintained its perfect run in the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League after dispatching Ngaraard Redman, 9-3, last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.



After a scoreless first inning, Man Amigos and Ngaraard Redman remained tied at a run apiece after two innings of play. The former finally got separation on the latter after consecutive hits allowed Mark Toves and Vinnie Sablan to step on home plate to make the score, 3-1, in favor of Man Amigos.

The fifth inning was when the fireworks started for the Man Amigos as Ngaraard Redman's defense finally gave way resulting in a five-run salvo that had James Fleming, Kent Kalen, Ben Pelisamen, Manny Sablan, and Peter Sablan all scoring to make it 9-1. Ngaraard Redman scored two inconsequential runs the rest of the game as it absorbed its second loss in four games, while Man Amigos continues to lord it over the win-loss column with a 4-0 card.

Hagu Lamun 17, Sufa 12
Successfully keeping pace

with Man Amigos is Hagu Lamun after they scored a come-from-behind 17-12 win against Sufa. After trailing 2-6 in the first inning and 5-8 in the third, Hagu Lamun managed to crowd Sufa, 10-11, in the fifth before leaning on a seven-run blast in the last inning to pull the victory from the jaws of defeat.

Tim Wesley, DeShawn Reign, Glen Camacho, Ray Tudela, Joe Celis, Henry Sablan, and Lo Cabrera all scored runs in the decisive seventh inning to carry Hagu Lamun to its third win in four games. The loss was the second in four tries for Sufa.

Tokehao 14, Asahi 2
Tokehao run-ruled Asahi, 14-2, en route to its third win in four games. Three runners crossed home plate in the first inning, two in the second, before Tokehao sealed the deal with nine more runs in the fourth and final inning. Asahi evened its win-loss record to 2-2 following the loss.

Peleliu 19, Salty Boys 9
Peleliu reached .500 in the



Hagu Lamun, whose player is seen here at bat in a file photo, scored a come-from-behind 17-12 win against Sufa in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

team standing after obliterating Salty Boys, 19-9. Joe Lizama, Mark Flores, Charlie Sablan, and Ben Hocog

kicked off the rout with runs in the opening innings. Peleliu then closed the one-sided contest by scoring nine runs

each in the sixth and seventh innings. The loss kept Salty Boys in the cellar with a 0-4 record.

Results of the women's divisions will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
New York	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	57	45	.559	12
Tampa Bay	54	48	.529	15
Baltimore	52	51	.505	17½
Boston	52	52	.500	18
Central Division				
Minnesota	54	48	.529	
Cleveland	53	49	.520	1
Chicago	51	51	.500	3
Kansas City	41	62	.398	13½
Detroit	41	63	.394	14
West Division				
Houston	67	37	.644	
Seattle	55	49	.529	12
Texas	46	56	.451	20
Los Angeles	43	59	.422	23
Oakland	39	65	.375	28
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
New York	65	37	.637	
Atlanta	62	41	.602	3½
Philadelphia	55	47	.539	10
Miami	47	56	.456	18½
Washington	35	69	.337	31
Central Division				
Milwaukee	57	45	.559	
St. Louis	54	48	.529	3
Chicago	41	60	.406	15½
Cincinnati	41	61	.402	16
Pittsburgh	40	62	.392	17
West Division				
Los Angeles	69	33	.676	
San Diego	58	46	.558	12
San Francisco	51	52	.495	18½
Colorado	46	58	.442	24
Arizona	45	57	.441	24

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLIE

From Page 20

July win to his brother and fellow motocross rider Corry Pangelinan and coach El-lery Cruz.

"They helped me throughout both classes—Minis II and Power Puff Girls classes. They pushed me to do my best and ride smart after a minor bike accident. I could not be how I am, as fast as I am right now, without these two men. I'd also like to thank my team, my family, and my sponsors, namely Ericco Racing Team, Pokka/MarPac, and Marianas Native."

And speaking of the Power Puff Girls Class, Pangelinan finished runner-up to eventual winner Nanako Celis. Both actually finished with 47

points each, but Celis won the second heat to take home the victory. Shaniah Alvarez came in third with 40 points.

Pangelinan took the second-place finish in stride.

"I'm not really affected that I missed first place in the Power Puff Girls Class. Like I said, I did have a small bike accident and it cost me to lose my place in the race. I pushed myself hard enough and took the advice my brother Corry gave me and made it through to second place. Just know that I'll be ready for the next race! I have only lost three points from the perfect score of 50. I am perfectly fine with a score of 47. I'm just glad to be racing with Team Ericco," she said.

In the Bog Boys ATV Class, Christian "Hollywood"

Camacho was again without peer with his 50 points. Henry Camacho Sr. was runner-up after accumulating 44 points, while Rex Susulin was third with 40 points.

Keoni Rosario, meanwhile, beat all comers in the Pee-wee ATV Class with 50 points. Second place went to Rockson Cabrera with 44 points, while completing the Top 3 was the 40 points of Brooklyn Susulin.

In the Mini ATV Class, Anella Igitol ruled the roost with 47 points followed by Cassidy Camacho and Kimason Cabrera with 45 points and 42 points, respectively.

The results of the rest of the classes in MRA's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

SBL

From Page 20

"The tryout will be like the tryout for the CNMI Men's National Baseball Team from the recent Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games."

Santos said SBL is determined to form the best junior baseball team in the CNMI as the squad will square off against the best teams from the Oceania region like Australia, New Zealand, Guam, and American Samoa.

The winner of the 2022 World Baseball and Softball Confederation U18 Tourna-



Youth baseball players like the ones that attended the University of Guam's "Summer 2022 Baseball Clinics" held last May at the Capitol Hill Softball Field is exactly what the Saipan Baseball League is looking for to try out for its U18 Junior National Baseball Team.

NMI

From Page 20

move up to a higher level. Our boys are very lucky here to be provided with a good level of soccer, facility, healthy food, and transportation as well as learning opportunities. We try to develop players to be tough and independent as they compete in the AFC U17 and U20 tournaments," Mita said.

Fifteen members of the NMI U17 National Team joined the training camp in the Philippines. The list includes Noelan Ngewakl, Mark Costales, Tyler Omelau, Zhi Xiang Lin, Wataru Kadokura, Monico Claridades, Jonne Navarro, Miles Linde, Ruben Guerrero, Anthony Austria, Cody Shimizu, Markus Toves, Anthony Bergancia, Mark Chavez, and Vicente

Reyes. The NMI U17 will be competing in the 2023 AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifier from Oct. 5 to 9 in Australia. They are in Group G of the qualifier and will be playing against the host, China, and Cambodia.

In the 2023 AFC U20 Asian Cup Qualifier, which will run Sept. 10 to 18 and will be held in Jordan, the NMI will be battling the host country, Chinese-Taipei, Syria, and Turkmenistan in Group D. Daniel Mar Pablo, Brian Lubao, Jer-ald Aquino, Merrick Toves, Akira Kadokura, Taka Borja, Brandon Tenorio, Jason Quimzon, and Reginald Pascual are the U20 players attending the PH camp.

Before going to the Philippines, the NMI U17 and U20 teams went to Guam for training camp.

ment will represent Oceania in the WBSC World Cup tournament next year.

The CNMI U18 junior national baseball team will be managed by Joey Dela Cruz with Manny Sablan, Mike Cruz, and Matt Kintol serving as coaches.

Santos added that he would like to emphasize to players' parents and family that the tryouts will be based purely on skills, commitment, and talent.

"Like the men's national team tryouts, this is going to be a strict tryout period....I'm pretty sure there'll be some disappointment along the way from the players and even their

parents and family, but I want to assure everyone that the selection will be a very fair process and because of the level of competition we want to send our very best players."

Santos said if all goes well, SBL will be using the 2022 Oceania World Baseball and Softball Confederation U18 Tournament as a springboard to further develop youth baseball in the CNMI.

"What we want to do is to start the process of rebuilding the youth baseball programs here in the CNMI. That's basically one of our main goals is to get youth baseball going again with these tryouts," he said.



Bill Russell lived a life like very few others

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

20 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Billie tops Mini II Class anew



TISHA FERRER

Billie Inabo Pangelinan in action in the Mini II Class of last Sunday's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Billie Inabo Pangelinan won her second monthly championship in the Mini II Class of last Sunday's July 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

The 13-year-old student from Dandan Middle School was perfect in both heats to finish with a total of 50 points. Vicente Palacios came in second with 44 points, while Matthew Guerrero was third with 38 points.

Pangelinan said she's proud that despite the muddy track she was able to persevere and win in the Marianas Racing Association-organized race.

"The race conditions were good! For Minis II, we raced in the rain and in the next heat, the track was really tacky and muddy! They did switch up

the lineup cause it was too muddy for the little ones!"

Pangelinan was also relieved that she was able to take first place considering MRA took a break last month to make way for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

"The break did not help, nor made my training worse! It was a very long break and I missed the feeling of race day. It was quite a long break! Although, the break had me so ready and hyped for race day!" she said.

Pangelinan dedicated her
See BILLIE on Page 19



NMI U17, U20 continue prep for AFC qualifiers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has sent its NMI U17 and U20 men's national teams to the Philippines to continue their preparation for the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournaments this year.

The two teams left Saipan last weekend and will train at

the Tuloy XO Field in Alabang until Aug. 10. At the two-weekend camp, the 24-player delegation will have multiple training sessions in a day, play in exhibition games, and perform activities and community service along with the players staying at Tuloy—an institution established by Tuloy Don Bosco Foundation to focus on helping less fortunate children.

"It's been three years since we last came to Tuloy Foundation. Our boys will surely

learn not just about soccer but as well as life skills from the Tuloy boys. They are good soccer players, educated, and independent even though they experienced many difficulties growing up. They always greet people and act responsibly on their own. These are very important skills for a soccer player because soccer is a decision-making sport so you have to be independent and able to communicate. Communication is very critical for team sports,"

said NMIFA technical director and head coach Michiteru Mita, who is being assisted by goalkeeper coach Chris Aninzo, team manager Davy Laxa, and assistant coach Jer-sh Angeles in facilitating the training camp.

"Many top elite youth soccer academy or top youth national team coaches believe in the importance of growth not only as soccer players, but also as a person if you want to

See NMI on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI players and coaches pose with Tuloy representatives during a break in their training camp at the Tuloy XO Field in the Philippines yesterday.

SBL to have tryouts for U18 team to NZ



MARK RABAGO

Saipan Baseball League president Jay Santos, seen here in a file photo, said they will be conducting a tryout to form a team for the 2022 Oceania World Baseball and Softball Confederation U18 Tournament in Auckland, New Zealand in December.

By MARK RABAGO
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The Saipan Baseball League will be conducting tryouts for the CNMI U18 national baseball team that will compete in a tournament in New Zealand this coming December.

SBL president Jay Santos said they've sent out invitations to try out to 40 under-18 baseball players and so far majority of them responded affirmatively to taking part in the tryouts.

"We got about a 90%

response rate from these players...It's a really strong response. I believe some of the kids are still on vacation," he said.

Those who make the final cut will represent the CNMI in the 2022 Oceania World Baseball and Softball Confederation U18 Tournament in Auckland, New Zealand in December.

Santos, however, cautioned those who signed up for the tryouts that this won't be for the faint of heart.

See SBL on Page 19

